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Presidential-Parliamentary Crisis in Russia

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Yeltsin Actions

Yeltsin Meets Muscovites, Says Election Campaign 'Under Way'

LD2209144693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1259 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Tamara Zamyatina and Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep—"The majority of regions of Russia back me as president in the decisive actions taken," Boris Yeltsin said today during a meeting with Muscovites on Pushkin Square, where he appeared in the middle of the workday. In the words of the president, yesterday and today he was in contact with the leaders of the regions and secured their understanding. "Only two or three of them are perhaps still doubtful," the president noted, adding that he "has sufficient energy and health to complete what he has started—to bring the country to democratic elections for the Federal Assembly."

Replying to a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondents, Boris Yeltsin said that the election campaign is fully under way. "The candidature of the Central Electoral Commission chairman has already been discussed and constituencies outlined, and local electoral commissions will be set up in the very near future." Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, who accompanied the president, gave an assurance that work toward the election would be carried out in Moscow in an organized fashion and as soon as possible, as planned at today's sitting of the capital's government.

In the president's view, "highly intellectual, cultured and highly professional people" will come into the Federal Assembly in the future. He stressed that he is particularly counting on business circles, which will reinforce the future parliament, and "take the political leadership of the country in their hands." Boris Yeltsin stressed that the position of the upper house of the parliament will be given to the Council of the Federation [Sovet Federatsii], which will gather in the very near future to discuss the issue of elections.

He stressed that he is also being supported by all "power" ministers. Interior Minister Viktor Yerin and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev turned up at Pushkin Square with him.

"The Ministry of Internal Affairs is completely in control of the situation, Viktor Yerin said. The armed forces, internal affairs bodies, and forces of the Security Ministry are acting together, and will always support each other in line with the law and the decree of the president".

With regard to a decision by the Supreme Soviet on "appointing" new "power" ministers, Pavel Grachev noted: "I wonder if they have the nerve to come to the ministries and give orders." He said that yesterday and today he held talks with troop commanders, who pledged their unequivocal support to Supreme Commander President Yeltsin, and stated their readiness to carry out all commands issued by Defense Minister Grachev.

As for "dialogue" with the Supreme Soviet, the president reiterated: "This authority no longer exists and the possibilities of dialogue with it have been exhausted." At the same time, he stressed that subsequent relations with this now illegitimate body will be built "peacefully and without bloodshed, and we do not wish to use force." Boris Yeltsin called Aleksandr Rutskoy's actions "independent action [samodeyatelnost] which has nothing in common either with legality or with the law."

In the words of Boris Yeltsin, he has secured the understanding of U.S. President Bill Clinton, who assured him in a telephone conversation last night that "the leaders of all the 'G-7' countries support the Russian president."

The Muscovites who surrounded the president chanted words of support for Boris Yeltsin, for which he thanked them warmly. People's smiling faces proved that they are satisfied with their meeting with the president.

Opposes 'Dialogue' With Parliament

LD2209225093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By correspondent Sergey Shatunov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] This afternoon Boris Yeltsin met with the power ministers of the Russian Federation Government. During a short conversation with Security Minister [Nikolay] Golushko, Internal Affairs Minister [Viktor] Yerin, and Defense Minister [Pavel] Grachev, the president discussed the situation that has come about in the capital and in the country as a whole.

Afterwards the presidential motorcade, as it made its way to the Kremlin, made a short stopover in central Moscow near the Pushkin monument, where Boris Yeltsin met with Muscovites and journalists and spoke about the measures being taken by his team to normalize the situation in Russia.

[Begin recording] [Yeltsin] Government ordinances already exist on measures to implement the presidential decree, which envision what needs to be undertaken to carry out the presidential decree. [crowd cheers] Thank you, thank you.

[Grachev] With regard to the Armed Forces, I had talks with my commanders of all ranks yesterday and today. They, in turn, held meetings and conversations with all the other commanders, who have unequivocally declared their total support for their commander in chief President Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] and they will carry out only commands issued by Russian Defense Minister Grachev.

[Yeltsin] The Mayor of Moscow, you know, is maintaining order in Moscow. One must say that the situation is calm and there have been no excesses.

[Moscow Mayor Luzhkov] Nor will we permit any. [crowd chants: Boris Nikolayevich, Boris Nikolayevich]

[Yeltsin] Thank you, thank you. I think that it is time for the Supreme Soviet to stop mocking us, the people, everybody.

[Unidentified journalist] If nevertheless the Supreme Soviet continues making attempts to seize power into its own hands, what will be done?

[Yeltsin] Well, we should not like, of course, and do not intend to undertake any strong-arm methods. We want everything to proceed peacefully and without any bloodshed. That is our main task.

[Second unidentified journalist] That there be no bloodshed?

[Yeltsin] Yes, that there will be no bloodshed.

[First journalist] Is there a possibility of any dialogue at all?

[Yeltsin] No, this organization—the Supreme Soviet—no longer exists. Therefore, there is no dialogue, and cannot be. And there is no need for it. The candidacy of the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission has already been discussed today. Work will now be energetically carried out everywhere including locally and in Moscow. Is that not so, Yuriy Mikhaylovich?

[Luzhkov] I want to say that in the [Moscow city] government today we discussed this matter and, as you yourselves are aware, Moscow is one of the most complex regions where it is most difficult to hold elections because of the large number of problems regarding its population and so on. We are convinced and tell you with confidence as managers and organizers that 11-12 December is a fully possible date for holding elections organized, prepared, and provided for everyone.

[Yeltsin] The main thing for us is to see that the corps of deputies is indeed highly intellectual, highly cultivated, and highly professional. That is the most important thing. We are hoping that business circles will be involved. This is very important and of great interest, since they must be tired of all this political bedlam. They want themselves to take control of the political leadership. Well, good luck to them!

[Unidentified woman journalist] Is the Federation Council being allocated a position in the future assembly as an upper chamber?

[Yeltsin] Yes, definitely. I think that after some time we shall convene the Federation Council in order to discuss matters concerning the elections.

Overnight I received a telephone call from Mr. Clinton expressing support. As you probably know, he has already made a statement with regard to this support. Therefore there is support for the president in the West. He said that the whole of the Group of Seven will support the president in his actions. [applause from crowd]

I thank you, Muscovites, for your support and for such a fine attitude. Let us act decisively! [end recording]

Yeltsin Issues Decress on Elections, Parliament

Declares Rutskoy's Acts 'Illegal'

LD2209143793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1340 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin acknowledged in his decree that the arrogation of Presidential powers by Aleksandr Rutskoy on the basis of Article 121-3 of the Russian Federation Constitution is illegal and void. The text of the decree circulated today by the Russian Federation Presidential Press Service states:

"According to Article 121-7 of the Russian Federation Constitution and the decree of the Russian Federation President of 18 September 1993 "On the Fulfillment by the Russian Federation Vice President of Certain Powers of the Russian Federation President," the president of the Russian Federation has not empowered Aleksandr Rutskoy to carry out certain powers of the Russian Federation president."

The president has decreed:

1. To deem illegal and not subject to implementation acts issued by Aleksandr Rutskoy in the name of the president of the Russian Federation.

2. All state bodies, officials, and citizens of the Russian Federation are to be guided by the decree of the president of the Russian Federation: No. 1400 of 21 September 1993 "On Stage-by-stage Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation" and other decrees of the popularly elected President of the Russian Federation.

3. The decree becomes valid from the moment of signing.

Fires Dunayev

LD2309083293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0752 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 23 Sep—In a decree signed today, Boris Yeltsin has fired Internal Service Lieutenant General Andrey Dunayev from the internal affairs bodies. This was reported by the press service of the Russian president.

The 54-year-old Dunayev had been first deputy minister of internal affairs of the Russian Federation since February 1992. The president's decree dismisses him from this post. The reasons include professional misconduct. Tuesday night, after Boris Yeltsin's television address to

the citizens of Russia, Dunayev was appointed minister of internal affairs at a session of parliament, the activity of which had been halted by the president.

Sets Date for Presidential Elections

LD2309093793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0855 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 23 September— President Boris Yeltsin has signed the following decree today:

Implementing the stage-by-stage constitutional reform in the Russian Federation;

Bearing in mind that the Federal Assembly, the Russian Federation's new legislative body, will set elections of the Russian Federation president and complete the creation of a necessary legal base of the elections:

I decree:

1. To announce early elections of president of the Russian Federation on June 12th 1994.

2. In accordance with Point 4 of the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation "On stage-by-stage constitutional reform in Russian Federation" of 21 September 1993 no. 1400, to propose to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation:

—to adopt the Law of the Russian Federation "On Elections of the President of the Russian Federation" not later than 1 February 1994;

—to work out and adopt, taking into account the timetable laid out in this decree, legislative acts on political parties and movements, on provisions for and procedures of access to mass media by participants of the electoral campaign, as well as to introduce other addenda and amendments into the current legislation.

This was circulated by the press service of the president of the Russian Federation.

Claims Control of Parliamentary Assets

AU2309110493 Paris AFP in English 1049 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, Sept 23 (AFP)—The government took control Thursday [23 Sep] of all assets and buildings of the Russian parliament in a decree issued by President Boris Yeltsin.

"The assets of parliament, including reserves in rubles and foreign currency, buildings and all other property" passes under the management of the presidential administration, said the decree.

Cooperation With Former Deputies Viewed

LD2309081393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0723 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] September 23 TASS—One may expect soon a decree of President Yeltsin on social security of former people's deputies of Russia, Georgiy Satarov, permanent expert of this news agency and member of the Presidential Council, told ITAR-TASS.

According to Satarov, a state commission for legislation will be formed at the office of the president, to which former people's deputies of the Russian Federation will be invited. Aside from it, they will be invited to take part in organising elections to the Federal Assembly.

Satarov pointed out that on Wednesday [22 September], when a conference with the participation of the administration of the president and former people's deputies was being held in the Kremlin, the Oval Hall was full. Not all those, who wanted to attend the conference, came to the Kremlin, because they waited for personal invitations. Today the invitations will be sent, and the number of participants in the conference will be increased. Satarov described as an encouraging factor the participation in the conference of the centrist members of parliament, "who are almost equivalent to the opposition."

Thus, Satarov believes Yeltsin is making up for the insufficient work for establishing contacts with former people's deputies, who intend to cooperation with executive authorities.

TASS Editor Details Federal Assembly Decree

LD2309064793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0500 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Interview with Yuriy Vladimirovich Sizov, editor in chief of the ITAR-TASS interstate news department, by announcer Mikhail Svetlichnyy, at ITAR-TASS office in Moscow; from the "Novosti" newscast—live]

[Excerpts] [Svetlichnyy] Now we have a live link-up with ITAR-TASS. Yuriy Vladimirovich Sizov, editor-in-chief of the ITAR- TASS interstate news department, is going to talk to us. I'd like to ask him what new reports from ITAR-TASS correspondents are coming in right now, and what the real situation in the regions is, given that both sides in this conflict, this confrontation of powers, refer to it.

[Sizov] Good day. [passage omitted]

[Svetlichnyy] Yuriy Vladimirovich.

[Sizov] Yes?

[Svetlichnyy] I know that you have several important documents that have not yet gone out on TASS. One of them deals with the forthcoming elections to the Federal Assembly. Could you tell us briefly about these important documents?

[Sizov] With pleasure. The media will receive them in the next few minutes. They are: provisions on the federal bodies of power in the transitional period. They have

come into effect under the Russian president's decree of 21 September. And provisions on elections for deputies of the State Duma. Under the provisions, the Federal Assembly, or parliament, of the Russian Federation is a representative legislative body. Thus we are going to have a bicameral professional parliament consisting of a Council of the Federation and a State Duma. The Council of the Federation is to consist of representatives of the legislative bodies of power and the heads of executive authorities of each component of the Russian Federation.

The Council's functions include setting elections for the president of the Russian Federation, dealing with matters to do with the use of Russia's Armed Forces outside its borders and the establishment and alteration of the borders between the components of the Federation.

The remit of the State Duma, which is to consist of 400 deputies, is to include appointing the chairman of the government, as submitted by the president, and dealing with matters to do with confidence in the government.

Structure of Federal Assembly Detailed

LD2309101393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0846 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 23 September—By his decrees on 21 September, the Russian president gave legal validity to the resolution "On Federal Bodies of Power During the Period of Transition." The document is based on the draft of the Russian Constitution, approved by the Constitutional Conference on 12 July 1993, and is aimed at strengthening the fundamentals of the constitutional system, such as the power of the people and federalism. It determines the structure of the new, bicameral parliament of the country—the Russian Federal Assembly—and is in force until the adoption of the constitution and the law on elections to the Federal Assembly.

According to the resolution, the Federal Assembly—the Russian parliament—is a representative and a legislative body, constituted of two chambers: the Federal Council and the State Duma.

The Federal Council includes chairmen of legislative bodies of power and leaders of the executive power of every subject of the Russian Federation until the end of present Soviet of People's Deputies mandate. Among the most important functions of the council is to set elections of the president of the Russian Federation, to decide how to use the country's Armed Forces abroad, and to approve changes in borders between the subjects of the federation.

By decree of the president, the provision "On elections of deputies of the State Duma" has also been put into effect.

Within the responsibility of the State Duma comes, among other things, the appointment of the chairman of the government—on the nomination of the president—and the resolution of questions of confidence in the government. The federal bills are adopted by the State Duma and are due in five days for examination by the Federation Council. In the event of the Duma not agreeing with the decision of the council, the bill is deemed passed if no less than two-thirds of the total number of deputies of the State Duma have voted for it in the repeat ballot.

The passed federal bill is sent to the president of the country for signing. If the president refuses this bill, it is due for re-examination by the State Duma and Federation Council. If the bill is re-approved, it is to be signed by the president.

The provision "On the federal bodies of power" defines the times of elections to the State Duma as 11 and 12 December 1993. The Duma consists of 400 deputies, 270 of whom are elected on the basis of "one constituency—one deputy", and the remaining 130 on the basis of proportional representation throughout the overall federal constituency. The electoral districts are formed not later than 50 days before the elections. Registration as a candidate requires the signature of no less than 200,000 electors in his support. For 10 days before election day there is a ban on the publication of the results of a public opinion poll on the elections.

Rutskoy Actions

Address as 'Acting President' Published

PM2309091593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

["Address of the Russian Federation Acting President" signed by A. Rutskoy and dated Moscow, House of the Soviets, 22 September 1993, 0025 hours]

[Text] Esteemed citizens of the Russian Federation, and citizens of the CIS and the world community!

Esteemed leaders of states!

Today, 21 September 1993, the Russian president has grossly violated the oath which he swore on assuming office, in which he swore to observe the Russian Federation Constitution and the Russian Federation laws when exercising his powers.

Edict No. 1400 of 21 September 1993 "On Stage-by-Stage Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation" has suspended the exercise of the legislative and administrative functions of the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies and Supreme Soviet. A coup d'etat has been carried out and direct presidential rule has been introduced, propped up by the anticonstitutional organs of so-called power that he himself has created.

I hope that the Russian Federation Government, the minister of internal affairs, the minister of security, and

the minister of defense will not embark on the path of violating the Constitution and betraying the people's power.

In accordance with Article 121.6 of the Russian Federation Constitution, the "powers of the Russian Federation president cannot be used to change the national-state system of the Russian Federation, or to dissolve or suspend the activity of any legally elected organs of state power, otherwise they are immediately terminated."

In accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution and the decision of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium, the powers of Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin are terminated.

In accordance with Article 121.11 "In the event of the dismissal of the Russian Federation president from office, the resignation of the Russian Federation president, or the impossibility of his continuing to exercise his powers, and also in the event of the death of the Russian Federation president, the powers of the Russian Federation president are exercised by the Russian Federation vice president. If it is impossible for the Russian Federation vice president to exercise the powers of the Russian Federation president, they pass in succession to the chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers and the chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. The question of scheduling elections for the Russian Federation president is decided in accordance with the Russian Federation Law on Elections of the Russian Federation President." On the basis of Articles 121.6 and 121.11 of the Russian Federation Constitution, I, Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy, by the right granted to me on the basis of the Russian Federation Constitution and the decision of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium, declare that as of 0025 hours 22 September 1993, I become acting Russian Federation president. I have signed the appropriate edicts.

In this connection I repeal the anticonstitutional and illegal Edict No. 1400 of 21 September 1993 on the basis of which the coup d'etat was carried out.

I appeal to the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Ministry of Security, to servicemen, and to staffers of the law enforcement organs not to carry out the illegal and criminal orders being issued by B.N. Yeltsin and his criminal clique. I am sure that the Russian Federation Government and the departments will not embark on the path of violating the Russian Federation Constitution and laws.

I appeal to the citizens of Russia to stay calm and display solidarity in defense of the lawful organs of power. If the need arises to resort to actions of civil disobedience, [I call on them] to prevent the country from being dragged into civil war.

I ask the world community to defend and support democracy in Russia and give every possible assistance to the lawful organs of power.

As acting Russian president, I swear before the people that I will act only in accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution and laws.

[Signed] A. Rutskoy

[Dated] Moscow, House of the Soviets, 22 September 1993, 0025 hours

Rutskoy Issues Edict Overruling Yeltsin Decree

PM2309092793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

["Edict of the Russian Federation Acting President On Measures To Suppress Anticonstitutional Actions in the Russian Federation" signed by Russian Federation Acting President A. Rutskoy and dated 22 September 1993]

[Text] Acting in the interests of preserving the constitutional system in the Russian Federation,

ensuring guarantees of the rights of citizens and the lawfully elected organs of power and administration,

I DECREE:

1. I declare B.N. Yeltsin's Edict No. 1400 dated 21 September 1993 to be invalid as it contravenes the Russian Federation Constitution.

2. Leaders of republics within the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, autonomous oblasts, autonomous okrugs, cities, and rayons are to strictly observe the Constitution and existing legislation.

3. I make it incumbent on all officials of organs of power and administration to act on the basis of laws and decrees of the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and other Russian Federation legal acts, and also on the basis of my edicts and directives.

4. I assume full responsibility for the state's security and the personal security of citizens and for ensuring the normal functioning of all organs of representative, executive, and judicial power.

5. The Russian Federation minister of internal affairs, the Russian Federation minister of security, and the Russian Federation minister of defense are to ensure strict observance by personnel of their constitutional duty and loyalty to their oath.

6. I ask the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet to decide the question of scheduling elections for the Russian Federation president in accordance with the Russian Federation Law on Elections of the Russian Federation President.

7. The present edict enters into force from the moment it is signed.

[Signed] Russian Federation Acting President A. Rutskoy

[Dated] Moscow, House of the Soviets, 22 September 1993, 0025 Hours, No. 2

Rutskoy Does Not Rule Out 'Clash'

MK2309082893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 1

[Interview with Aleksandr Rutskoy by Oleg Polukeyev under "Vice President" rubric under general headline: "Power Has Placed Russia on the Verge of a Catastrophe. Boris Yeltsin Has Effectively Introduced Presidential Rule. Parliament and the Vice President Are Trying To Create an Alternative System of Power. The Slightest Provocation or Yet Another Irresponsible Move by Any Side Can Lead to Civil War"; in Moscow, 21 September]

[Text] Tuesday, 21 September, 2037, the White House. Aleksandr Rutskoy is outside entrance No. 8. He asks the militia man on guard: "Do you have a submachine gun?..."

I recalled that two years and a month ago, though the putsch collapsed, at that time, too, Rutskoy was personally inspecting the posts.

[Polukeyev] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, how would you comment on what is going on now?

[Rutskoy] This is an overthrow of legitimate power bodies. The president's edict finally states his position clearly and sharply. Whereas in March he was making threats, now he is not. The edict has been signed. I cite its operative part: "To stop the functions of legislative, administrative, and oversight functions of the Congress of People's Deputies." What does this mean!? The supreme legislative body has been removed from power. It is not clear, however, how the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation will be formed, on the basis of which law. In other words, this is a total violation of the law. A coup d'etat.

[Polukeyev] In your opinion, how will events develop in the upcoming period?

[Rutskoy] As I have seen, anything can be expected from this man. Including the use of force. By the way, as of today the Dzerzhinskiy Division has been put on full alert and introduced directly into the territory of Moscow, concentrated in the center. Yesterday a training exercise was held. Rather, not yesterday but on Sunday when Ruslan Imranovich and I were phoning the deputy internal affairs minister, asking him: "Aleksandr Nikolayevich! What is this troop movement all about?" The Internal Affairs Ministry lied—they said that a cash collection vehicle had been robbed and therefore searches were being conducted all over Moscow. We got in touch with Gerashchenko and asked whether that was really so, but he said that nothing like that had occurred. That is to say, it was a brazen lie.

The training exercise was held in the Moskva Hotel. Its configuration, with the inner courtyard, is approximately the same as the Rossiya Hotel and more or less exactly the same as the Supreme Soviet building. Today all of this has been set in motion. Therefore forceful actions are not ruled out.

[Polukeyev] What will be your first actions?

[Rutskoy] First of all, it is necessary to repeal this edict immediately—I have a right to do this under the constitution. Article 121-6 takes effect automatically. Under the constitution, the vice president takes over. I am now preparing my own edict countermanding Yeltsin's.

[Polukeyev] In other words, you are assuming presidential functions?

[Rutskoy] Exactly.

[Polukeyev] In his time Yeltsin revoked the edicts issued by the State Committee for the State of Emergency. Does it not seem to you that the present situation strongly resembles that one?

[Rutskoy] We are now past the "it seems" stage. Today, actions are called for so as to stop the process of falling into an abyss and the country's sliding into civil war.

[Polukeyev] Are you not worried about the blood of innocent civilians?

[Rutskoy] First of all, this is not a question for me. This question should have been addressed to Yeltsin, do you understand? Because in contrast to him, I have seen blood in my life. I know what it is. This question must be put to him: On what grounds does he allow himself such actions that can lead to clashes? A clash is not ruled out.

Rutskoy, Khasbulatov Seek Contact With 'Power' Ministries

LD2209184093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Aleksandr Rutskoy, proclaimed president of Russia by parliament (outlawed by Tuesday's presidential decree) said on Wednesday [22 September] that "ways are being looked for to make contact with the 'power' ministries with the aim of taking control of those structures."

"Administration (in those ministries) will be handled by people working there," he told INTERFAX on Wednesday. "We were forced to ask the Supreme Soviet to appoint new 'power' ministers, because the former ones had shown flagrant disobedience to the law and the Russian Constitution," he said.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov told INTERFAX the same day that Boris Yeltsin had been dismissed as president on the basis of the Constitution

and a relevant Constitutional Court ruling, which was why "the power ministers have had no reason to resist the steps of legitimate bodies of authority."

"In principle, there can be no use of armed force or bloodshed" under the present circumstances, said Khasbulatov. "We'll be doing our best to make this impossible." He added. However, "the armed forces have long ceased holding a stand of neutrality in politics." "They cannot remain indifferent to what is happening to the country, and therefore I have no doubts that the armed forces will obey the law and Constitution," he said.

Khasbulatov said the nation should give support to the legitimate bodies' efforts to stabilize the situation and achieve peace in society. "We'll be trying to ensure conditions for the normal development of the country, improve the living standards of the people and protect them from the outrages of criminals," he said.

Rutskoy Urges Rally Participants To Take 'Decisive Actions'

LD2209224693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Aleksandr Rutskoy, whom parliament appointed acting Russian president, has called on those present at the public rally in front of the parliament building in Moscow to take decisive actions. He said that this clique which has caused the state's downfall will not go by itself because it understands that it has to be brought to justice.

On Wednesday [22 September] night the number of those present from among the supporters of the National Salvation Front totaled from 6,000-7,000 people.

Phones Regional Leaders

LD2209225193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Acting Russian president (under the decision by the Supreme Soviet) said in an interview that he had held telephone conversations with 58 regional leaders of the country.

According to him, approximately 80

of them "definitely supported law and the Constitution," 10

gave their backing to President Boris Yeltsin and 10

have not yet determined their position. Rutskoy believes that those hesitating wait for the Congress of People's Deputies to discharge Yeltsin. "From the legal point of view there is no necessity to do this," Rutskoy remarked. Meaning the appropriate resolutions by the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Soviet and the provisions in the current constitution.

Rutskoy says that if the congress estimates the presidential order from September 21 as non-constitutional "this will no longer be a problem of morality, but of the Criminal Code."

According to Rutskoy, the possibility of a civil war in Russia is brought down to zero, because the army will not fight against its own people. He completely excluded the path which would bring about human deaths. "I have seen enough blood in Afghanistan and I will do everything in my power to prevent the current situation in Russia being resolved by bloodshed," he emphasized.

Calls For 'Harsh Measures'

LD2309090893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Aleksandr Rutskoy, stripped of his powers by Yeltsin but appointed president by the Supreme Soviet, stated last night to the Ekho Moskvy radio station that no dialogue with Boris Yeltsin about the simultaneous election of the president and the parliament is possible since the president—in his words—is now acting as a private individual. Rutskoy intends to urge the Supreme Soviet to adopt the appropriate decision on elections.

Rutskoy believes that in the course of the three months during which he is to carry out the duties of a head of state, according to the decision made by the dismissed Supreme Soviet, it will be possible to stop the economic crisis. In order to do this, harsh measures are necessary. In response to the radio station's question on what concrete methods he has in mind, Rutskoy stated that he has enough willpower to force people to obey the law.

In the same interview, Rutskoy ruled out the possibility of using strong-arm methods and stated that he intends to resist any such attempts if they are made by his supporters. He refuted rumors about movements of the military units allegedly acting on orders of Vladislav Achalov who was appointed by the Supreme Soviet to the post of defense minister.

Spokesman Views Possibiliy of 'Dialogue' With Yeltsin

LD2309101793 London BBC Television Network in English 1800 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Interview with Andrey Fedorov, Rutskoy's spokesman, by Jon Snow; Fedorov in Moscow, Snow in London studio; from the "Channel Four" newscast—live]

[Text] [Snow] Andrey Fedorov, it doesn't look too good for your forces tonight?

[Fedorov] First of all I have to say that the dialogue is still existing between various power struggle forces, and first of all I have to say that Mr. Rutskoy is acting

president according to the decision of the parliament, and according to the decision of the Constitutional Court.

[Snow] But the difficulty surely that parliament has at the moment is that nobody is putting into effect any of the decisions that you make?

[Fedorov] Yes. There is not so much interest into the work of the parliament because people are waiting to see whether their parliamentarians will be able to convene Congress of Peoples Deputies or not, and what kind of replies they will receive from the regions because it is absolutely clear the regions will be the decisive force within this conflict.

[Snow] Now you say that there is a dialogue still continuing. With whom, who are you now banking on supporting you to bring Mr. Yeltsin down?

[Fedorov] It is not a question of supporting or not supporting, it is a question to find the common way out of the crisis, because this crisis unfortunately now turned into such kind of stage that it is damaging to the unity of Russia, and the decision of many regions not to support Mr. Yeltsin's decree are causing some problems to everyone here.

[Snow] The key thing ultimately though is can Mr. Yeltsin go on governing, can he control the ministries, can he control the army, and the answer surely to both of those questions is yes and yes?

[Fedorov] The question today is not to control the army, the question today is to control the country, you can control the army but if the regions are saying no to you, you can do nothing even with the army.

[Snow] Which regions are you looking to say yes to you then?

[Fedorov] Fortunately I have to say that according to the latest figures 34 regions, sessions of their councils and soviets said no to the presidential decree.

[Snow] Did they say yes to Mr. Rutskoy as president?

[Fedorov] Not all of them. The majority of them are saying that we are not in agreement with facts of the presidential decree, [that] we are understanding why Mr. Rutskoy is acting president at this very stage, but the best solution for all of is to come to the compromise which can include simultaneous elections, both for president and the parliament.

[Snow] Did you think Mr. Yeltsin may give in on the presidential elections? At the moment he has only called parliamentary elections, if he were to say that there would be presidential elections let's say two months after the parliamentary elections would that be enough to resolve the crisis?

[Fedorov] It depends how strong and how tough will be the regions in their demands, because for many regions there is understanding that only simultaneous elections can solve the problem.

[Snow] Now you said earlier that you had a dialogue going on with various forces. Is there any dialogue open at all to Mr. Yeltsin himself?

[Fedorov] No there is no direct links, there are no direct dialogue with Mr. Yeltsin. But as I told previously probably in the future there might be some dialogue in case the regions will push both parliament and Mr. Yeltsin for such kind of dialogue.

[Snow] Now do you have any fear as we speak that maybe Mr. Yeltsin will decide to move harder against the parliament and maybe round you all up?

[Fedorov] First of all it is very hard to make from the technical point of view. The second thing Mr. Yeltsin said today quite clear that he doesn't want blood in the streets nor the parliament, that is why I hope that the both sides will be clever enough to avoid any disturbances.

[Snow] So the real danger tonight is that you will go on sitting in the parliament making more and more decrees, appointing more and more ministers, and he will go on reckoning that he is running the country from the Kremlin?

[Fedorov] I think the biggest danger is that while he will sit in the Kremlin and we are in the White house the country will go on its own way.

Supreme Soviet Actions

Khasbulatov Delivers Address to Deputies 21 Sep

PM2309102193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Sep 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

["In These Trying Times Stand Up in Defense of Democracy. Speech by Ruslan Khasbulatov, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet"; speech delivered 21 September in the Russian Supreme Soviet]

[Text] Esteemed fellow citizens! I am addressing you at what is a very serious time for our fatherland. You have just heard Russian Federation President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's speech on television. Ten minutes ago I received an edict from the president which cites the same text he delivered on television.

In short, the point is that these numerous threats to overthrow the constitutuonal system were made in the edict. In accordance with the president's edict, the activity of the Congress of People's Deputies as supreme organ of power in the Russian state has been terminated and abolished. I would remind you that this is the very Congress that adopted the law whereby we in the Russian Federation actually elected the Russian Federation

president. The activities of the Supreme Soviet have been terminated and all power has passed, in accordance with the edict, to the president. It is a coup d'etat. A coup which, as I have already said, has been attempted repeatedly, in particular on 20 March.

Of course, you will ask: What are the real reasons for this coup? The real reasons, and we have mentioned them before, are that the policy of the president and government has led our country to total collapse—in the sphere of economic policy, in the sphere of defense policy, and in the sphere of foreign policy. It was to conceal the true culprits and their inability to govern the country that they started the numerous attacks on the Supreme Soviet, which was allegedly preventing the government and the president from implementing the reforms. We were also constantly accused of engaging in confrontation and of inflaming emotions, although this is quite untrue. Our fellow citizens have begun to appreciate this very well and see it very clearly of late.

I would remind you that it was literally that week that the Supreme Soviet had adopted a decree making it incumbent on both the Supreme Soviet chairman and the president to begin a dialogue in order to establish the reasons for this misunderstanding. A delegation was appointed. But, unfortunately, the presidential side did not respond to these appeals, opting for a violent course of events.

In this connection, I would urge you, esteemed fellow citizens, to support the representative branch, your legislators. In difficult conditions we have upheld the people's interests—both in the provision of pensions and in industrial policy. We wanted us to have no unemployment, we wanted to see no enterprises standing idle, we wanted the law-enforcement bodies to finally start the fight against crime and corruption. We took and will continue to take action to ensure that peace, quiet, and accord reign in society, that we do not have the absurd situation where members of the executive branch are fighting it out with the representatives of the people, the deputies, accusing them of every mortal sin and thus demonstrating their inability to run the country.

I would appeal to soviets at all levels and to administrations: Convene sessions immediately, form an opinion of what is happening, support the Supreme Soviet in the struggle against the putschists. The president's actions are unconstitutional. So they are invalid, unlawful, and illegal.

I call upon servicemen, the staff of internal affairs organs, the militia, and security organs, and anyone involved with the special services not to carry out orders based on the president's illegal edict. As you know, under Russian Federation laws, illegal edicts are not to be implemented, and anyone who implements them is liable.

The Supreme Soviet guarantees safety for all people who, on receiving an illegal order, do not carry it out.

As for the Supreme Soviet, we are organizing defenses. We have already received information that armed detachments, obviously units of some kind, most likely special subunits of Ministry of Internal Affairs troops, are currently moving into Moscow, possibly in order to intern the leadership of the Supreme Soviet, Constitutional Court, and General Prosecutor's Office and opposition party and trade union leaders here and now. In fact all those who have critized the president's policy in one way or another.

We urge all our fellow citizens to rise up in defense of democracy, because you are now in danger. You know what it cost us, how very difficult it was to achieve democracy, what it cost us to achieve freedom, albeit not much. So you must defend the representative organs that reflect your interests. You elected us so that we might defend your interests. Of course, maybe we have not been entirely consistent, but in the trying times that have befallen us, I urgently appeal to you again to stand up in defense of the people's elected representatives.

I call upon Russian Federation deputies to go to Moscow immediately. We will hold an emergency [chrezvychaynyy] congress.

Khasbulatov Addresses Rally on Moves to Halt 'Coup'

LD2209224493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov spoke before participants in the spontaneous rally in front of the House of Soviets on the Krasnopresnenskaya Naberezhnaya. He emphasized that the Russian parliament had had "no other way to stop the coup d'etat and they stopped it."

After the speech, Khasbulatov announced to journalists that the day of September 22, had been marked by activities mostly on the regional level. According to him, approximately 50 regions of the country held sessions of the Lower Councils of People's Deputies and sessions of other councils. As many as 95 percent of deputies "sharply disapproved of the coup d'etat," Khasbulatov says.

The speaker emphasized that the parliamentarians could not use force. They could only use the law, the Constitution and the people's backing.

According to Khasbulatov, a "new date for the presidential elections should be arranged."

On the question of when the newly appointed power ministers will start carrying out their duties, Khasbulatov expressed the opinion that their discharged colleagues "should be responsible" and "not cling to their posts." Khasbulatov suggested that he "would advise them to negotiate and to resolve the issue by peaceful means."

Barannikov, Dunayev Accept Ministerial Appointments

LD2209121193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1136 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Larisa Kislinskaya]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep— A CRIME PRESS correspondent has found out from informed sources that Viktor Barannikov and Andrey Dunayev have agreed to take up the posts of Russian security minister and Russian acting minister of internal affairs. Decrees appointing them were signed by Aleksandr Rutskoy last night. The appointment of Viktor Barannikov was confirmed at the session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, which was dissolved by President Boris Yeltsin yesterday but which continued to function in the White House in Moscow.

Until recently Viktor Barannikov was the security minister, and Andrey Dunayev was Russian Federation first deputy minister of internal affairs. Both of them were removed from their posts by Boris Yeltsin's decrees.

Barannikov Comments on Crisis

LD2209225593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Viktor Barannikov, appointed security minister by Aleksandr Rutskoy, believes that the resolution of the current political crisis will be based on certain compromises. In an interview with INTERFAX, he was confident that the key ministries must obey the legitimate power - Supreme Soviet. "I cannot think of another variant," he said. Barannikov believes that most officials of the key ministries understand correctly their task - ensuring security of the state.

At the same time, Barannikov believes that the officials and the acting president, Aleksandr Rutskoy, must analyze the situation very calmly, attentively and prudently. The most important thing is to find a peaceful solution and prevent human casualties, according to Barannikov.

Parliament Holds Emergency Session, Adopts Resolutions

Adopts Resolution on Central Bank

LD2209134093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] The session of the Russian Supreme Soviet which began at 9:30 on Wednesday [22 September] adopted a resolution stipulating that the Central Bank of Russia should be guided by the Constitution and the acting legislation. It should conduct financial operations according to a corresponding decision of the Parliament.

The Supreme Soviet also adopted a draft decree on introduction of changes and amendments to the republic's Criminal Code proposed by Sergey Baburin. It is expected to be supplemented by two new articles providing for criminal responsibility for actions aimed at a coercive change of the constitutional system of the Russian Federation and hindrance of state power bodies' activity.

The first article envisages imprisonment of 10-15 years or death penalty. Presenting the draft decree, Baburin pointed out that "it meets today's requirements."

Several deputies, including Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Nikolay Ryabov, expressed doubt with respect to the leaglity of several provisions of the new draft decree. In particular, the deputies said that it cannot be retro-active, and Baburin agreed to this.

However, Ruslan Khasbulatov, who chairs the sitting, underlined that if "the crime is of a lasting nature and if it is not suspended then the decree can apply to such actions as well."

Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Valentin Agafonov informed deputies about what had been done over the previous hours. He reported that the Sakhalin, Lipetsk and Khakassia lower councils and the Presidium of the Moscow Council recognized Boris Yeltsin's decree as non-constitutional and gave their backing to the decision of the Supreme Soviet.

Agafonov also reported that currently deputies are forming groups to go to Moscow's working staffs in order to explain the Parliament's position.

Deputies are being convened for a Congress of People's Deputies which is expected to open in the building of the House of Soviets; registration is to be started in the entrance hall.

Regional councils, minor bodies, and presidiums have scheduled their sessions for September 22-23 with the following agenda: "On current situation due to the coup implemented by the former president Boris Yeltsin."

Khasbulatov has proposed to let Agafonov form the session as an intercom conference with regional councils is underway in the building of the Communications Ministry. [sentence as received]

Adopts Measures Against 'Coup'

LD2209151393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet has resolved "to condemn anti-constitutional actions" by Boris Yeltsin and to adopt "all necessary measures to restore constitutional lawfulness."

On Wednesday [22 September] the Parliament passed a resolution "On Urgent Measures to Surmount Anti-Constitutional Coup of September 21, 1993" in which it qualified Yeltsin's actions as "an attempt at a coup" and declared the transfer of presidential authorities to Aleksandr Rutskoy.

The Supreme Soviet has commissioned Councils of People's Deputies and executive bodies to adopt all necessary measures "to preserve public order and normal functioning of enterprises, organizations, power engineering facilities, transport and unimpeded supplies to the population." In addition, the representative power bodies are proposed "to take the state mass media under its control, and to prevent any appeals for extremism and violence and support of the anti-constitutional state coup."

According to the resolution, the Russian prosecutor's office should "urgently conduct an investigation and draw officials and citizens who facilitated preparation "of the state coup and supported it" to criminal responsibility."

Deputies have addressed parliaments and governments of all countries of the world and UN Security Council with an appeal "to condemn the anti-constitutional coup undertaken by the Russian president on September 21" as actions enthreatening stability and civil peace in the Russian Federation and creating threat for security of other countries and peoples.

Issues Appeal to Parties, Organizations

LD2209182493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1756 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet has adopted an appeal to Russian political parties and public organizations in which it estimated the order by President Boris Yeltsin as an "effort to escape political responsibility for the growing break up of the country, failure of economic reforms and impoverishment of the people." The parliament called upon the political parties to "remain faithful to the constitution and democratic principles and to maintain law and order."

The appeal repeats that the Supreme Soviet "while accomplishing its constitutional duty has stripped off the powers of President Boris Yeltsin and has sworn in acting Russian President Aleksandr Rutskoy. However, new presidential elections will take place in Russia not later than in three months."

"The moment has come to test the maturity of political society. And the future of Russian democracy, possible way out of the crisis without the use of force and continuation of the reforms in the interests of the majority of the people depend on your position," the appeal says.

At the present moment the Russian parliament is holding a closed session of its chambers. Speaking on the necessity of the closed session, Speaker of the Council of Nationalities Ramazan Abdulatipov called upon deputies to "help the Supreme Soviet's chairman and to assume certain activities." As Abdulatipov has explained, the closed session will discuss the unfolding events.

Closes Session

LD2209203493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Despite the fact that the presidential decree suspended the powers of the people's deputies, they continued their activities in the white multi-story building on the Krasnopresnenskaya Naberezhnaya embankment. At 1700 hours, an extraordinary session of the former Supreme Soviet was resumed here. Our correspondent Yevgeniy Zherebenkov reports:

[Zherebenkov] Deputies were informed about the provinces' reaction to the presidential decree "On Stage-by-Stage Implementation of the Constitutional Reform" and about the decisions of the Supreme Soviet and the Constitutional Court, which followed from it. According to the headquarters set up in the White House, local soviets in the components of the federation generally supported the actions of the Supreme Soviet.

Deputies adopted an appeal to Russia's citizens, political parties, and public organizations with a call to defend the constitutional regime. They also adopted a decision to draw in military units—the list of which should be determined by the new defense minister—to ensure the protection of state power and the functioning of the communications and information systems and to maintain law and order and stop crimes. This decision was prepared by the factions' council of the Supreme Soviet and approved by Aleksandr Rutskoy. The implementation of the decision was entrusted to Colonel General Vladislav Achalov, who was appointed defense minister by Rutskoy's decree. The document stresses that all Pavel Grachev's instructions after 21 September are void and should not be obeyed.

After adopting these documents, the relay of the session was stopped, and the sitting was held behind closed doors. We managed to find out that Security Minister Viktor Barannikov and Interior Minister Andrey Dunayev spoke at the closed sitting. They were both appointed to their posts by the Supreme Soviet, the functions of which have been suspended in accordance with Boris Yeltsin's decree. Viktor Barannikov spoke against the use of force. Andrey Dunayev noted that only a third of the Interior Ministry employees supports the Supreme Soviet's actions.

Meanwhile, a rally in support of the Supreme Soviet continues outside the White House. About 8,000 people are taking part. Aleksandr Rutskoy spoke at the rally. He called for decisive action. According to Aleksandr Rutskoy—I quote—the band that messed up the state should be facing not only the people, but also the court.

It is proposed that an extraordinary congress of Russian Federation people's deputies may be convened on 23 or 24 Septmeber. However, so far, there is no quorum for this.

Calls For Military Help

LD2209204693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1906 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By correspondent M. Lillevyali; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] In the White House today, the atmosphere was like that of war time. A headquarters to prepare for a congress was hastily organized in the cabinet of Yuriy Voronin, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

About an hour later, journalists were informed about what was happening in the Soviets of People's Deputies in the Russian regions. As of 1500, the actions of the Supreme Soviet were supported by 29 oblast soviets, which accordingly condemned the president's address.

The registration of people's deputies arriving for the congress took place throughout the day. Some 400 people have now been registered. I remind you that, in order to secure a quorum, the presence of 689 people's deputies is required.

The Supreme Soviet session, chaired by Ruslan Khasbulatov, opened at 1700. On the instructions of the Council of [Parliamentary] Factions, and after consultation with Aleksandr Rutskoy, Svetlana Goryacheva read out a decision by the Supreme Soviet. In view of the situation that has developed within the country, arising from Boris Yeltsin's address, the draft says, in order to ensure the protection of the organs of representative power and the functioning of the system of communications and information, and also to ensure law and order, the Supreme Soviet considers it necessary to enlist the services of the military units listed below.

The list of the specific military units is secret. The implementation of the decision is entrusted to Colonel General Achalov, the alternative defense minister. All orders and instructions from Minister Pavel Grachev issued since 21 September were declared to be invalid and were not to be implemented. The deputies adopted the decision by a majority of votes.

In reply to a question from a deputy as to whether that meant that there would be a state of emergency in Russia, Ruslan Khasbulatov said no. There is no need to try to catch mice where there aren't any. We have enough of them running around, the speaker commented.

A Supreme Soviet appeal to citizens, political parties, and movements was also adopted at today's session. Then the session continued its work behind closed doors.

Throughout this time, a rally had been taking place outside the White House. It was attended by Aleksandr Rutskoy, Vladislav Achalov, Viktor Anpilov, and Sazhi Umalatova. All the speakers asked that only the lawful power, as represented by the Supreme Soviet, should be supported, and they called for decisive action. Those assembled declared themselves unanimously in favor of endorsing Aleksandr Rutskoy as president.

Invites Chernomyrdin to 23 Sep Session

LD2209230093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was invited to the session by the Supreme Soviet on Thursday September 23 to state his position. The appropriate decision was taken at a closed parliamentary session on Wednesday afternoon. Deputy Andrey Chaikovskiy announced that the parliamentarians believed that if the prime minister refused to speak at the parliament he should be discharged.

Defense Minister Viktor Barannikov and Internal Minister Andrey Dunaev (appointed by Rutskoy) spoke at the closed session. Barannikov rejected the use of force in the present situation. Dunaev evaluated the balance of forces in the Internal Ministry. In his opinion, approximately one-third of the ministry's personnel supports the Supreme Soviet, the rest share the position by the president.

23 Sep 'Emergency Session' of Presidium Opens

LD2309080293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0715 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Sep—This morning the Presidium of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet opened an emergency session at the House of the Soviets. The session is an open one. It is also attended by deputies who have arrived for the congress, the activity of which, as we know, has been stopped by a decree issued by President Boris Yeltsin.

Journalists were not informed about the agenda, and at first they were not even invited to attend the session. Later they were invited to the hall after all.

"This is agony," said Sergey Stepashin about today's [illegible] of the Supreme Soviet presidium. He added that today he will submit his resignation from the post of chairman of the parliamentary committee on matters of defense security.

The sitting of the presidium is an open one, but deputies did not hear anything new from Ruslan Khasbulatov, who simply repeated his idea that "the state is under threat" and that it is time "to eliminate the plot, terminate the putsch, and restore the constitutional system."

Having no support either at the international level or, essentially, in our country, the Supreme Soviet is trying to change the situation with a variety of "cosmetic" measures. There have been proposals from Sergey Baburin and other deputies "to go to the labor collectives," urgently "to send Supreme Soviet representatives to the regions," and even "to warn ministers about

criminal liability," meaning the draconian amendments to the Russian criminal code passed by parliament yesterday.

Having accused the parliamentary committees and commissions of "poor work," Ruslan Khasbulatov proposed that "the focus of work be shifted to Moscow enterprises," including Moscow organizations at which, in his words, "the appropriate headquarters should be set up." It was proposed that "foreign policy approval be fought for." There were suggestions that "visits be paid to military schools and academies" along with the power ministers (namely, those appointed by parliament), "in order to find out who could come to the defense of the Constitution." "We must unequivocally conclude that if there is to be no congress and no Supreme Soviet, neither will there be elections," Yuriy Voronin stated.

Session Called 'Chaotic and Confused'

LD2309112593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1016 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 23 September—Today's morning session of the Russian Supreme Soviet, abolished by President Boris Yeltsin's decree, was chaotic and confused. For the journalists who have stoically spent two sleepless nights at the White House, it is obvious that the Russian Supreme Soviet has nothing to offer the people.

It was all the same calls to "halt the coup d'etat" that set teeth on edge. All the same old talk about the messianic role of the representative authorities. But, as it transpires, parliamentarians have nothing to rely on. Their only support is the local soviets. Ruslan Khasbulatov reported that as of 0700 today, of the 87 subjects of the federation, sessions or meetings of the representative authorities had been held in 53, including in eight republics, five krays, 37 oblasts, and three autonomous okrugs.

According to him, "In adopted decisions, the absolute majority of soviets decisively condemn Boris Yeltsin's anticonstitutional actions." Ruslan Khasbulatov calls Yeltsin the "former president."

A text of a parliamentary draft resolution was circulated among the members of the Supreme Soviet, whose essence is "to appeal to former Russian President B. N. Yeltsin and other people involved in the coup d'etat to stop the anticonstitutional actions and surrender to lawful authorities or leave the country."

The fact that a decision was made to convene a Congress of People's Deputies this afternoon—which was, like the Supreme Soviet, dissolved by the popularly elected legal president—even if there is no quorum, demonstrates that the Supreme Soviet has completely lost its sense of reality. To do so, parliamentary committees and commissions were instructed in the few hours left before this jamboree [deystvo] to study proposals put forward by deputies in order to "constructively work out" an agenda for the congress.

Deputies Arrive in Moscow for Congress

LD2209134193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Despite the president's decree ending the authority of Russia's deputies, they are not reducing their activity in the White House in Moscow. They are continuing to describe their session as a session of the Supreme Soviet and are preparing for a congress. Our special correspondent Yevgeniy Zherebenkov reports:

[Zherebenkov] Registration of deputies arriving for their emergency congress is going on in the Russian White House. A decision to hold the congress was adopted at the morning session of the Supreme Soviet. As yet the registration is rather sluggish—the number of deputies who have arrived is not being given, but the registration desk is next to our commentators' position and, according to my calculations, I think that no more than 300 people's deputies have managed to gather in Moscow, while the quorum now required for the congress to open is about 680.

I remind you that a session of the Supreme Soviet was at work last night and this morning, during which a decision was taken to remove Russian President Boris Yeltsin from his duties and to transfer his authority to Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. At the morning session deputies voted to remove Vyacheslav Bragin from the chairmanship of the Ostankino TV and radio company and to appoint in his place his First Deputy Valentin Lazutkin. Ruslan Khasbulatov's instructions ordering the Central Bank to stop financing all the executive structures of power without the appropriate permission of the Supreme Soviet were also announced. The session also adopted a law on insertions, amendments, and additions to the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. These changes provide for measures of punishment right up to execution for actions aimed at forcibly changing the constitutional system and obstructing the work of the lawful organs of state power. The session has now taken a break. The Supreme Soviet is busy distributing copies of the adopted documents and preparing for the emergency congress.

Deputies and numerous journalists are arriving and wandering aimlessly around the building. Everywhere you bump into people carrying automatic weapons, and I gather they are from the Officers' Union [Soyuz Ofitserov]. When asked where they got their weapons from, they reply laconically: There is a stock of them. The stocks, to judge by the number of armed people, must be quite large.

Outside the White House not very well attended meetings are being held. A few hundred people, mostly under

red flags, have gathered there. At the approaches to the White House there are some feeble, or rather symbolic, barricades.

'Obstacles' Keep Many Deputies From Moscow

LD2209144193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Andrey Golovin, the spokesman for the headquarters to hold an emergency Congress of People's Deputies based in the parliament building, has told an INTERFAX correspondent that they are receiving information from the provinces about major obstacles put before the people's deputies who are to arrive in Moscow to attend the congress.

He says that rail and air tickets are not being sold to them under different pretexts and they are being forced to leave trains and airplanes. It is planned to open the congress as soon as there is the quorum of 689 deputies, said Golovin.

'31 Constituent Parts' of Russia Condemn Yeltsin

LD2209185993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] The leader of the Smena—New Policy parliamentary group, Andrey Golovin, told reporters that, according to the data of the Russian Supreme Soviet, by 15:00 [1100 GMT] on Wednesday [22 September] the councils of 31 constituent parts of the Russian Federation, including five republics, five territories, 20 regions, and one autonomous area, had condemned President Boris Yeltsin's decree to dissolve the Supreme Soviet and the Congress of People's Deputies and expressed support for the Supreme Soviet's decision to dismiss Yeltsin as president.

Parliament Official Opposes 'Deals With Yeltsin'

LD2209163093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Constitutional Legislation Vladimir Isakov told INTERFAX that "Boris Yeltsin's goal is to plunge Russia into complete chaos, thus making the parliament accept the compromising idea of holding early elections."

If events take such a turn, said Isakov, Yeltsin is likely to reverse his decree of September 21. Isakov categorically opposes "any deals with Yeltsin." He said that according to the Constitution and the current laws, following the transfer of powers from the president to the vice-president, the parliament must announce early presidential elections within three months. He also pointed out that he would urge the Congress of People's deputies "to suspend this president-related provision, because there is complete chaos in the executive bodies."

Isakov believes that if the Congress of People's Deputies accepts his proposal, "federal authority will become temporarily concentrated in the parliament which will form up a government of national accord." He noted that the discussion of presidency might be resumed after the situation returns to normal.

Constitutional Court Actions

Zorkin: Simultaneous Elections Only 'Way Out'

LD2209135293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1331 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep—Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin sees the holding of simultaneous pre-term elections, both for Parliament and the president of Russia, as the only legitimate way out of the current situation in the country. In an appeal to the citizens of the country released here today, Valeriy Zorkin points out that in his opinion its is essential to adopt a law on elections and a law on the organs of power for a transitional period, until a new Constitution is adopted. After that, the chairman of the Constitutional Court says, the Congress of People's Deputies would cease its activities.

Outlines Crisis 'Program'

LD2209170593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1340 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Excerpts] A news conference was held today at the Russian Federation Constitutional Court. Our correspondent Aleksandr Kurilin has just returned to the studio and I ask him to tell us what was said at that news conference.

[Kurilin] [passage omitted] [Constitutional Court Chairman] Valeriy Zorkin pointed out that he agrees with the evaluations and aims that the president made in the preamble to his statement, but the measures proposed by Boris Yeltsin nevertheless devalued, in the opinion of the Constitutional Court chairman, basic legal and constitutional values, and this in his view could not be permitted in such a country as Russia where democracy is only just taking shape. And these measures, Valeriy Zorkin thinks, could lead in the end to the establishment of a dictatorship from one side or another, and also create an intolerable precedent in the history of the Russian Federation.

The chairman of the Constitutional Court went on to acquaint journalists with his program for a way out of the crisis, consisting of four points. I invite your attention:

[Begin Zorkin recording] First, the Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation is to adopt a decision on simultaneous preterm elections of both parliament and the president. For this purpose it is to adopt a law on

elections and a law on the organs of power for the transitional period before the adoption of a new Constitution. After this the Congress ceases its activity. Commissions set up to elaborate these laws should be open and accessible for work in them by experts from all branches of power and also by participants in the Constitutional Conference of the Federation Council.

Second, the Congress of People's Deputies is to instruct the existing Cabinet of Ministers to fulfill its obligations, working at the same time within a regime of broad glasnost, with the Supreme Soviet maintaining its monitoring functions for the transitional period. The president is to keep his established constitutional authority in relation to the government.

Third, after the adoption of the suggested decisions, the Supreme Soviet is to cease its law-making activity and remain a guarantee of observance of legality in the conduct of the elections.

Fourth, the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation is to be recognized as a guarantor of the decisions, is to discontinue at a given stage the function of mediator in political confrontations, and is to continue its work in the normal regime, concentrating its attention on defense of the constitutional rights of citizens. [end recording]

In conclusion I shall say that, replying to a question by an INTERFAX correspondent about whether he intends to be a mediator in the search for a compromise between the conflicting sides, Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin said that the confrontation has indeed gone on for too long, and a mediatory commission is simply essential in the present situation, but that he himself does not intend to act in this role.

Asks Parliament To 'Sacrifice' Ambitions

LD2209185793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Excerpt] The confrontation between the president and parliament has gone so far that the crisis cannot be resolved without a mediator, Constitutional Court Chairman Valery Zorkin thinks. He does not intend to act again as one, he said in response to an INTERFAX question at a news conference Wednesday.

Zorkin thinks that the Federation Council "or some other group" could act as a mediator. In his view, a compromise is possible, "but not of the kind which could be struck on March 20 or in December 1992. Such compromises have exhausted their potential. I fear that the next few hours may be decisive and that activities could start which would be difficult to stop. For this reason I call on the Supreme Soviet to sacrifice some of its ambitions and agree to simultaneous parliamentary and presidential elections."

Zorkin made it clear that he agrees with most of what Yeltsin said about the situation in the country, in the top echelons of state authority and with the goals Yeltsin has set. But the way he proposes to achieve them devalue the constitutional and legal principles which have yet to become implanted in the public mind, he believes.

"By putting himself above the Constitution, the president creates a precedent. Consequently, other political figures may also feel free to treat it litely [as received]. This will inevitably result in universal lawlessness," Zorkin says. [passage omitted]

Further Zorkin Comment

LD2209224993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] The chairman of Russia's Constitutional Court (CC), said the Supreme Soviet and presidential structures still had a chance to find a civilized way to end the present crisis. An early presidential election should be held simultaneously with a parliamentary one, something the parties to the conflict should agree to if they wish "to save Russia," Valeriy Zorkin told INTERFAX on Wednesday evening.

There should be no laying of blames, the parties should forget all their discord and start a dialog, he said.

"I don't call on the two branches of authority to compromise, the way I did last December," the CC chairman said. "Today this is no longer possible, but there's still a chance, which shouldn't be missed. Every hour of delay is reducing this opportunity," the basis for which is provided by the sober-minded position of Russia's regional bodies. Their pressure could force the parties to reach a compromise, he said.

Zorkin said he could not act as a mediator in the present conflict. "I hear rumors that a decree is being prepared to dismiss me. Today I just wish to outline a civilized way of resolving the conflict. I'm pinning my hopes on the goodwill of the Russian people," he said.

Court Member Opposes Ruling on Presidential Decree

LD2209223893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] A member of the Russian Constitutional Court (CC) said an early parliamentary election was the main and perfectly reasonable aim of the last presidential decree. Tamara Morshchakova told INTERFAX she was one of the four judges who had voted against the CC ruling declaring the latest presidential decree unconstitutional.

She said the CC should not have taken up the decree before the Congress of People's Deputies instructed it to do so. "The Constitutional Court in my view had no good reason to deal with the decree, and shouldn't have worked at night," she said. "The session could just as well have been opened the next morning. I just can't understand how the court could hold a session without

following our basic procedural principles - the attendance of both parties and so on. Of course, the court assumed that it couldn't afford to do that under such circumstances. But, if we can take such a liberty, then we must allow the president to take emergency measures in a period of emergency," she said.

Morshchakova said it was one of the CC rulings, the one on the procedure for counting votes at the April referendum, that was the ultimate cause of the present crisis. She said that, at that time, it should have been the principle for approving the proposition on an early election that the majority of those actually taking part in the referendum rather than the majority of the registered electorate have say. "In that case it would have been decided in a perfectly normal way that such an election was necessary. The population itself would have made such a decision, and the election would have been over a long time ago," she said.

Morshchakova said some of the CC judges, including herself, were considering resignation. "If the court works in an atmosphere of such uncertainty, and if we can issue rulings diametrically opposite from one another, can we be guardians of law and order?" she said.

Military, Security Ministry Reaction

Defense Ministry Expects Military Assault by Parliament

LD2309120493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1146 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 23 September—According to the information available to the Russian Defense Ministry, the White House [Supreme Soviet building] is preparing a military takeover of the Defense Ministry building and the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces. This was reported to ITAR-TASS at the directorate of information and press of the Russian military department. In connection with this, all the necessary measures were taken to prevent any provocation, including an armed one.

Military Sources: General Staff Phones Disconnected

LD2309103393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 23 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev gave a news briefing earlier today in the Russian Federation Defense Ministry. Military sources report that city telephone links in the General Staff buildings and military installations in Moscow under its control have been disconnected.

Ministers Adopt Decision To Protect Public Order

LD2309094393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0835 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 23 Sep—On 22 September, the Council of Ministers—the Russian Federation Government—adopted a decision "On Measures To Step Up Protection of Public Order on the Streets of Towns and Other Populated Areas of the Russian Federation."

In connection with a worsening of public order on the streets and other public places, taking account of citizens' demands to ensure real protection of their rights and personal safety, and in fulfillment of the Russian Federation president's decree of 18 September "Concerning additional measures to strengthen public order in the Russian Federation," the Council of Ministers has made it incumbent on the Ministry of Internal Affairs to take additional measures to step up protection of public order on the streets and other public places. For these purposes, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is to organize additional patrolling of the above mentioned places with strengthened militia patrols with the involvement of the servicemen of internal troops and other services and sub-units of internal affairs bodies.

As far as possible the participation in patrols of citizens who have volunteered to undertake the protection of public order should be ensured. Their work will be paid for out of the funds available because of the existence of unfilled posts in the internal affairs bodies, and legal and social protection guarantees stipulated for members of voluntary people's guards will be extended to cover them.

The number of employees of the internal affairs bodies envisaged for 1993 will be increased by 45,000, of which 40,000 will be dispatched to reinforce subunits guarding remand and escort centers and 5,000 to set up Special Purpose Militia Detachments [OMON] in major industrial cities. In addition, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is to be allocated 34,000 men from among citizens called up into military service from October to December of this year. In 1994, 70,000 conscripts from each draft will be allocated to bring the internal troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs up to strength.

It has been proposed that the Ministry of Finance grant the internal troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs additional allocations in 1993-1994 to acquire combat and special hardware, vehicles, means of protection, and aggressive defense for personnel and also to provide for 40,000 servicemen hired on contract.

Local authorities are recommended to use their own resources and resources which have been brought in to set up additional subunits of patrol services of public security militia (local militia) in order to organize around-the-clock stationary posts in residential areas and areas with large numbers of people, patrol offices, and groups of emergency response under the command of units on duty of the internal affairs bodies. Apart from

that, they must also set up, with the help from militia employees, the tax police, and other interested organizations, special operational groups to control places trading in consumer goods and local agricultural produce.

The resolution is signed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers.

Grachev, Top Commanders Hold News Conference

LD2209142593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1239 GMT 22 Sep 93

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] A conference of the top commanders was held in the Russian Ministry of Defense today, in connection with the difficult situation in the country. Army General Pavel Grachev spoke about the results this yielded.

[Begin recording] [Grachev] The situation among the troops is calm. Nobody has reacted in earnest to the upheavals in the Supreme Soviet, with respect to the unlawful appointment of a second leadership for the country, a president and a number of ministers, including "power" ministers. All of the commanding personnel of the armed forces are outraged at the event in question and have declared unanimously that they will not obey the orders of the newly-elected leadership of the country. All of them declared unanimously they were under the subordination only of the Minister of Defense and President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, who was legally elected by all the people—and on two occasions, at that.

What orders have I given? I have ordered all troops to keep to their previous routine of life and work, and under no circumstances respond to any provocations whatsoever, and certainly not use arms. All commanders know that all orders that do not come from me or from the Chief of General Staff will be checked out.

If the Army is not left in peace, and it blows up; if the Army is provoked, then no force will be able to restrain the Army. No one. Yes, I have asserted, and I confirm, that the Army will not intervene in political battles. I confirm once again that at the present time, the Ministry of Defense is the integral organism that has ensured stability in society and the security of our society, and will continue to do so. It is the only organism which is manageable, and which is indivisible. [end recording]

That was a statement by Pavel Grachev, Russian minister of defense, on the Army's position in regard to the events in Russia.

'Everything Quiet' With Troops

LD2309092193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Our observer Viktor Levin has just returned from the Russian Defense Ministry. Viktor Nikolayevich:

[Levin] Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, invited journalists in to tell them that everything is quiet among the troops. The soldiers and officers are carrying out planned combat training exercises. True, during the press conference the commander of Moscow Military District added that 20,000 soldiers in Moscow District are now working in the fields digging up potatoes, and the general went on to say fervently that apart from the soldiers there was nobody in the fields at the present time when the fate of the harvest was being sealed. He asked: How are we to live, what are we to eat in the forthcoming winter?

For my own part I will add: At the ministry itself everything is as normal, the leave regime, guard duty. There are no reinforced patrols, I saw not a single person with an automatic weapon.

The briefing took place in the presence of all the deputy defense ministers apart from Gromov—who is at an exercise; again, a planned exercise—and the commanders of the services of the Armed Forces. There were several commanders of military districts.

Pavel Grachev said: My fellow commanders and all those commanding districts have stated that they do not recognize General Achilov as defense minister and have instructed me to carry on at the head of the ministry.

General Grachev said that the troops were getting provocative orders signed by Rutskoy. He showed us this document, the letterhead already saying: President of the Russian Federation, which they either had printed or, more likely, stole. These forms contain calls to send specific units, and also two battalions of cadets from the Ryazan Airborne Assault School, to the White House.

These orders, the defense minister said, were seen by all the relevant commanders as illegal and, of course, would not be carried out.

General Grachev said: We oppose attempts to draw the Army into a war with the people and that is precisely what Rutskoy is after.

Grachev Claims Full Support

LD2309102893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0945 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS military observer Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Sep—Army General Pavel Grachev, minister of defense of the Russian Federation, received a full endorsement of his position today from his deputies and commanders of the services of the Armed Forces. He

told journalists this after a thirty-minute conference with the leadership of the military department.

No unfavorable changes in the situation in the troops have occurred over the past twenty-four hours. "The Armed Forces, in spite of the political and economic difficulties, are going about their business of military training and carrying out the tasks of ensuring the country's security. The mood in the army and among officers and men is very healthy indeed," Grachev stressed.

Incitements to involve the Army in actions on the side of the parliament-appointed leadership not only contradict the Russian Constitution but are also socially dangerous. What tactics have the legitimate government and the president devised in this connection?

Replying to this question from the ITAR-TASS observer, the Russian Federation minister of defense noted: "Evidently such actions have been instigated in order to create the pre-conditions for carrying out countermeasures of a forceful kind. These matters were discussed at the government sitting. The decision was taken not to get involved in single combat using force, but if acts of provocation create a threat to people's lives or the threat of the seizure of facilities, of attacks and the removal of property, there are sub-units of the internal troops and the military ready to use force against gangs."

Further Grachev Comment

PM2209191793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Maryukha: "Army General Pavel Grachev: The Army Has One Task—To Defend the Fatherland"]

[Text] "According to reports from the provinces, the situation among the forces is calm and no one has reacted significantly to all last night's upheavals," Army General Pavel Grachev told journalists at a press conference on the morning of 22 September. The defense minister and his deputies and certain commanders in chief of branches of the Armed Forces present at the press conference also said that they do not intend to obey the Supreme Soviet's new leadership of the country. The troops have been given instructions to live and work as normal and in no circumstances react to any provocations, certainly not by using armed force.

The latter is particularly important, Pavel Grachev stressed, since Colonel General Vladislav Achalov, whom the Supreme Soviet has "declared" defense minister, sent a telephone message to military academies and troop units demanding that they "immediately come with their standard-issue weapons and place themselves at his disposal" at the White House. In fact, I believe this is a call to take up arms and be ready for combat action against their own people. At the same time, it is an attempt to split the officer personnel of the Armed Forces, which the existing Russian Federation Defense Ministry has no right to allow.

In this connection, the instructions were dispatched to the troops that explanatory work be conducted on the impermissibility of a split, that any agitation and calls to arms be nipped in the bud, that the detachments guarding units and military facilities be stepped up, and that operational details be formed to monitor the situation and prevent acts of provocation or terrorism against servicemen. After duly rechecking incoming instructions, Pavel Grachev said, the troops are directed to carry out only those instructions that are signed by me and the chief of General Staff. "These are essential measures to maintain civil peace," Pavel Grachev stressed.

It is a time when the Army must not be goaded and made to clash with the people, Pavel Grachev went on to say. The Army must be left in peace, outside politics. It is responsible for safeguarding Russia's security and it will not interfere in matters of internal security until the time when political emotions translate into public confrontation. It will be politics no longer—the people will have to be saved. If the blood of innocent people is shed, the Army will have its say, the minister stressed.

Stance of Troops in Baltics, Far East Viewed

Troops in Latvia, Estonia 'Faithful'

WS2309102493 Tallinn BNS in English 1819 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Riga, Sept 22, BNS—The Russian northwestern army group, still stationed in Latvia and Estonia, will remain faithful to President Boris Yeltsin and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, the group's spokespeople told BNS Wednesday [22 September].

Spokesman Valily Belakov says that the group's command has received no other directives from Moscow in view of the complicated political situation there but the decree to remain in their places and not to meddle in political fights. [passage omitted]

Commanders in Estonia Back Grachev

LD2309104793 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Admiral Yuriy Belov, commander of the Russian naval base in Tallinn has stated that from 23 September 1993 he is subordinated to Pavel Grachev, appointed as the Russian Federation's defense minister by President Boris Yeltsin. Edgar Haavik, head of the naval department at the [Estonian] defense forces general staff said to ETA [ESTONIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY] that he had been holding talks with Admiral Belov on the subject of cleaning the northern harbor at Paldiski [Russian naval base near Tallinn]. In the course of their conversation it came to light that the Russian military unit deployed in Estonia had acquired a new boss today. Belov's adjutant had said early on Thursday morning

that he did not know whether the Tallinn naval base was subordinated to Vyacheslav Achalov—appointed defense minister by Rutskoy—or to Yeltsin's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

An hour later a conversation was held with Admiral Belov. The commander of the Tallinn naval base stated that from today they have a new boss, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

The Russian president has been elected by the people and the people empowered him to keep order and stability in Estonia. This is what General (?Ziyakhudin) Abdurakhmanov, commander of a [Russian] air-defense division deployed in Estonia and a former Estonian Supreme Soviet deputy, told ETA. He did not wish to comment on the situation in Russia but stated that the Russian people had trusted their president with power and the president must use it.

Far East Follows 'Regular Routine'

OW2209143893 Khabarovsk Radio Khabarovsk Network in Russian 0830 GMT 22 Sep 93

[From the "Kray News" program]

[Text] We have been told by the press center of the Far East Military District that the army is carrying on its regular routine and abides by its regular schedule. Troops are continuing daily training, military facilities are still guarded, and maintenance work and preparations by military installations for winter are being carried out. No orders from Moscow have been received. The principle that the Army stays away out of politics is being maintained. Naturally enough, a sufficient level of combat readiness is being maintained among the military district's troops. However, the Army will take action only if the state is attacked, or if it has to protect its own facilities and military property.

Chief of General Staff Loyal to Yeltsin

LD2209164393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1553 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS military observer Aleksandr Naryshkin]

[Text] Nizhnyy Novgorod Oblast, 22 Sep—"I am subordinate to the minister of defense and he, in his turn, to the supreme commander, President Yeltsin. I have no other superiors," Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of general staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, stated to an ITAR-TASS observer at the Gorokhovets training ground where the regimental exercises of the Land Forces of the Moscow military district are being held today.

"The strength of the Army lies in the sole responsibility of the commander without which it will turn into unmanageable group of people in uniform," Mikhail Kolesnikov stressed. He noted that the neutrality of the army is not a very precise term since it contains an element of political orientation.

The chief of general staff stressed that the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation are only fulfilling their constitutional duty of defending the fatherland and the people from external aggression.

Security Minister Galushko Backs President

LD2209173093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 22 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Today our correspondent managed to get an interview with Nikolay Mikhaylovich Galushko, who has just been made [security] minister.

[Galushko] Yesterday, we received the decree from Russian Federation President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin that outlines ways to settle issues constitutionally—to stabilize the situation in the country and hold new elections. We held a meeting of heads [of the ministry], heads of the main operational subunits, and agreed to implement this decree. I must say that this decree does not give us any emergency powers, especially not the authority to carry out any forceful action. During the day that has passed since the decree was issued we have been very busy keeping an eye on...[pauses] checking that the situation is under control in different regions. I can say that on the whole, the situation in the country is stable, there have been no anti-social or other similar incidents. But, in general, people say that Russia needs stability and many issues which provide for state security depend on stability. As for the developments that are worrying us, causing us concern, I would not like to see the continuation of confrontation of this kind between the branches of power, destabilization of the situation and, especially, an increased tendency toward diarchy. Because if one or another politician allows this to happen, it could have serious consequences and would violate Russia's security interests, as well as disrupt the peaceful lives of citizens of Russia.

Ministry Officers Split Over Support

MK2309093993 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 3

[By Andrey Semenov]

[Text] Toward last night we learned from reliable sources that the central apparatus of the Russian Federation Security Ministry was in a state of jitters.

Highly placed officials in the Russian Federation Security Ministry divided into several camps. At 1600 a captain in the Security Ministry phoned us and said that some 20 colonels and lieutenant colonels from the Antiterrorist Department, the Anticorruption and Contraband Department, the Information and Analytical Department, and the "Vympel" group (the Russian Federation Security Ministry's special task force) decided to adhere to the current constitution, in spite of the leadership's will. Insisting that his anonymity be

ensured, the source from the Security Ministry central apparatus reported that should an order be issued to act against the people who have gathered outside the White House or elsewhere, Security Ministry officers will not use special means, and "should something happen," they will "turn aside" (read: evade their duties). The execution of duties will be of a purely formal character (if it comes to dispersing people).

The informer specially stressed that the group he represents will carry out orders from Yeltsin, Rutskoy and Khasbulatov with equal "diligence." This is because the security people consider Yeltsin's address anticonstitutional, but they do not support Rutskoy or Khasbulatov, either. Russian Federation Security Ministry officers themselves favor the earliest possible election of the parliament and the president.

One final point: An hour before the call the group of colonels and lieutenant colonels was joined by another five Internal Affairs Ministry officers. All of them were from Yerin's secretariat.

Ministry To Maintain Order

LD2209173393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Leaders of federal and local security bodies have been ordered to monitor the course of developments and inform of developing crisis situations, as well as to take measures to prevent and localize them, INTERFAX has been told by a spokesman for Public Relations Center of the Russian Security Ministry. Additional measures have been taken to prevent crimes aimed at provoking mass disturbances and inter-ethnic conflicts and destabilizing the situation.

The ministry leadership also deems it necessary to step up activities to prevent encroachments on the constitutional system, acts of terrorism and the illegal use of force. Besides, Russian frontiers have been enforced to prevent provocations, illegal smuggling of fire arms, explosives and drugs.

Moscow Police Working in 'Intensified Mode'

LD2209165593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1427 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Larisa Kislinskaya]

[Text] Moscow September 22 TASS—The most important task of the Moscow police consists in fighting crime, said participants in an emergency meeting held at the Moscow Interior Ministry department last night.

All operative forces should pay more steadfast attention to gathering and acting upon information about people having cold steel and firearms in order to suppress terrorist activities, leaders of the department emphasized.

All police departments in Moscow are now working in an intensified mode. Their actions are coordinated by a specially formed staff, led by general of the interior troops Dmitriy Kiselyov, deputy head of the Moscow Interior Ministry department.

Black Sea Fleet Commander Urges Calm

LD2209173693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1617 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep—Admiral Eduard Baltin, Black Sea Fleet commander, has addressed the fleet personnel urging them to keep calm and carry on with their duties, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the Black Sea Fleet press center. In his address, Admiral Baltin noted that the situation in the fleet, and Sevastopol in general, is calm at the moment and that the fleet remains manageable and combat ready.

From the sources close to the Black Sea Fleet General Staff, the ITAR-TASS correspondent learned that the overwhelming majority of the fleet officers have adopted a wait-and-see attitude.

Government Officials' Reaction

Cabinet Statement Supports Yeltsin Decree

LD2209145393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1345 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep— The government press center today circulated a statement of the Council of Ministers—the Government of the Russian Federation. It says:

The Council of Ministers—the Government of the Russian Federation—supports the decree of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin "On a Stage-by-Stage Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation" and accepts it for unconditional implementation. It regards the decree as the only way out of the current political crisis, which was taken in the interests of the people, who have the highest power in Russia and who voiced unequivocal support for the president and the policy of reforms during the April referendum.

The decree puts a stop to legislative arbitrariness and virtual sabotage on the part of the Supreme Soviet and is directed above all at averting paralysis of government and pushing the people into confrontation, with unpredictable results.

The Supreme Soviet and vice president, trying to hold on to power at any cost, are working toward political provocations, which, however, will not be able to assist their rehabilitation in the eyes of the people.

The government is in full control of the situation in the country and, working normally, sincerely hopes for the support and understanding by Russians of the actions of

the president and government and for their active participation in practical steps aimed at the implementation of the decree.

Government Issues Instructions to Finance Ministry, Central Bank

LD2309035193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0125 GMT 23 Sep 93

["Decision of the Russian Federation's Government on Measures to Implement the Russian President's Decree of 21 September"; by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Sep—In accordance with the decree of the Russian Federation's president of 21 September "On Stage-by-stage Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation," the Russian Federation's Government adopted a decision [postanovleniye] on Wednesday instructing the Ministry of Finance, and the finance bodies of republics within the Russian Federation and of krays, oblasts and autonomous formations and of the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg to continue to implement budgets under the Russian Federation president's instruction of 12 August.

The Russian Ministry of Finance has been instructed to clarify within two weeks the indicators of the republican budget of the Russian Federation for the fourth quarter and for 1993 as a whole. It has been instructed to include in that quarter the indexation of revenues and expenditures in the republican budget, taking into account forecast rates of inflation and the need to observe a regime of austerity in state spending, and also the need to eliminate the debt owed by the republican budget of the Russian Federation in salaries to workers of the social-cultural sector and in money allowances to servicemen.

Beginning 22 September, the Central Bank is charged with conducting operations regarding the accounts of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, its subdepartmental organizations and enterprises only with the agreement of the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, and with giving the relevant instructions to the territorial administrations of the Central Bank and the commercial banks.

In accordance with the decision of the government signed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, from 22 September, the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation is subordinated to the Russian Council of Ministers and is carrying out its activity on the basis of a budget agreed with the Russian Ministry of Finance.

The Russian Federation Central Bank is instructed, starting 22 September, to carry out a set of measures, agreed with the Ministry of Finance, to defend the national currency and prevent sharp fluctuations in its exchange rate, including the raising of the bank rate of the Russian Federation Central Bank to 200 percent annually.

The Russian Federation Central Bank is instructed to transfer to the republican budget of the Russian Federation 200 billion rubles from its profit for 1992 by 1 October.

It has also been decided to recommend to the Russian Federation Savings Bank that it raise interest rates on depositors' current accounts and deposit accounts by an average of 30 percent.

Chernomyrdin Seeks Support From Regions in Phone Conference

LD2209153693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin has postponed today's earlier planned trip to Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast. The Council of Ministers' meeting has also been postponed until tomorrow. Meanwhile the premier went to the Telegraph [building], where he held a phone-in conference.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Today Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government, held a phone-in conference with leaders of republics, krays, and oblasts of the Federation from the phone-in conference room of the Communications Ministry. Speaking to soviets' leaders and heads of administration, Viktor Chernomyrdin said that the Russian Government supports the choice made by the president. The situation is more difficult and complicated than ever, but far from hopeless, said Viktor Chernomyrdin.

[Chernomyrdin] I also must say that we are talking about two months. Today, or rather yesterday, the president stated that we must re-elect everyone from top to bottom, including the president. He has said this before, at the Federation Council. We will survive for two months. The people will elect those who it needs for leadership. The people will decide and we must give our people the opportunity to decide for themselves. How can we unleash slaughter in the country today, just because of two months? Who will forgive us for that? Will history and the people forgive us for this?

This is why I want to say yet again today and draw your attention to this. My position has been and always is clear. I have never given up my position and will never do in any situation, whatever happens. Whatever happens.

[Unidentified caller] What are we going to do about payments?

[Chernomyrdin] That's already closer to home. [end recording]

'Deeply Satisfied' With Talks

LD2209152793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1223 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Head of the Russian Government Viktor Chernomyrdin held a phone-in conference today with heads of Russian Federation regions. Here is the Russian premier with his assessment of the results of this meeting right after it had ended.

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] I will not mince words: Of course I was worried before the meeting, to put it frankly. This was in fact the first conversation with the whole country, with all heads of all regions. Not a single person said he did not support the president's decree and everything that had happened—you witnessed this yourselves.

Everyone was unanimous today. We need stabilization, everybody said: Well done, better do it now. As we say, one can't put it off any longer.

We were witness to this today, with the whole country speaking to us.

Personally I am deeply satisfied with this conversation. Maybe some things are still unclear to you, but I am clear on what has been said today to the government. We were asked a host of questions: Fedorov—on finances; also on fuel and other problems. We must really get on with it—there is loads and loads of work, as we say. But we will get on with it, we want to get on with it, we are glad to get on with it, but in the right tone, and with the right results—that is exactly what people expect from us today.

Only one compromise is possible—the country must be governed in a rule-of-law way, with legal authority on top, a legal president. And it is not the right time now to mess about or try to pull the sheet, to look for something or other. Not the right time. The country will wait for two months—I believe nothing will happen. And after the two months the people will decide for themselves who is who and who must be at the top. Everything will fall in place, I hope. Today we have no grounds for distrusting our people. None of us has, I reckon. [end recording]

Upbeat on Conference

PM2309085793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Maksim Gan report: "V. Chernomyrdin Calls on Regions To Support President"]

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin held a telephone conference 22 September with heads of regional and oblast administrations, leaders of local soviets, and representatives of the mass media.

The main goal of the first conference, in which members of the Russian cabinet of ministers also participated, was to ascertain the situation at local level. "If I had a different position to the president, I would not be here today. There cannot be dyarchy in the country. It is time to end this farce and get down to work," Viktor Chernomyrdin appealed to participants in the conference.

Representatives of Khabarovsk Kray, Sverdlovsk Oblast, Bashkortostan, Krasnodar Kray, and others declared their support for the president's actions and reported a calm situation in their regions. According to the speakers, the situation is stable everywhere, and the resolution of economic problems remains the most important task. The heads of administrations mainly complained about the bad weather and a shortage of funds.

Replying to the questions of the participants in the conference, Viktor Chernomyrdin noted that the government is seeking additional resources to allocate to the regions. However, the premier stressed that the solution to the crisis can be found only through combined efforts and called for calm to be maintained.

In the majority of regions the local soviets of people's deputies intend to hold a session in the near future to discuss the situation that has arisen and determine their attitude to the president's edict. However, no fears were expressed regarding the local soviets' reaction. Summing up the results of the conference, Viktor Chernomyrdin expressed the idea shared, perhaps, by all, that there is no alternative to early elections. "The people themselves will determine and choose who they want," the prime minister said.

Chernomyrdin Sends Telegram to Regional Heads

LD2209172193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1515 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep, (ITAR-TASS)—ITAR-TASS has received a telegram signed by Viktor Chernomyrdin and directed to the heads of administration of krays, oblasts, autonomous okrugs, autonomous oblasts, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg. It says:

"In connection with the Russian Federation President's Decree No. 1400 of 21 September 1993 'On Stage-by-Stage Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation' resolutions of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and documents issued under [Aleksandr] Rutskoy's signature are from 2000 hours [1600 GMT] on 21 September not legally valid and are not to be implemented. I warn you that you are personally responsible for the implementation of the Decree and the ordinances of the Russian Federation president and government in your territory."

Chernomyrdin Reports Government Functioning Normally

LD2309095493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] As we have already reported, there was a meeting of the Russian Government this morning. The details on the telephone line from our correspondent Valeriy Kiosa.

[Kiosa] Viktor Chernomyrdyin, the head of the government, spoke at the start of today's meeting. He stressed that following the president's 21 September decree the load on the government was increasing visibly. A group headed by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets has been created to analyze the situation and make urgent decisions. Viktor Chernomyrdin also proposed preparing an appeal from the government to deputies that will stress that they must not now assemble at a congress and start a war but must prepare for elections.

Viktor Chernomyrdin also said that the govervent was functioning as usual. Everything planned earlier, including tours by the deputy prime ministers, would be carried out.

The government then moved on to discuss items on the agenda. These include a program for the social and economic development of the Kuril Islands and a proposal to develop special technology for the Russian north.

At the same time, another event was taking place on Staraya Ploshchad. The prime ministers of Russia and Kazakhstan, Viktor Chernomyrdin and Sergey Tereshchenko, along with the heads of their Central Banks, signed a bilateral agreement on unifying the monetary systems of the two countries. Such agreements have now been signed with all the states participating in the treaty on the new ruble zone. After the signing Sergey Tereshchenko noted that the Russia-Kazakhstan understandings reached in Kokchetav were already in operation: Customs checks have been lifted for citizens of the two countries, and a commission is working on reducing the list of goods subject to customs control.

The Russian prime minister stressed that at tomorrow's meeting of the heads of state and government of the commonwealth the main issue will certainly be the question of economic union. As far as the governments of these countries are concerned, they have already prepared everything required for this. Moreover, no one intends to force anyone to conclude this economic union, Viktor Chernomyrdin told journalists.

Chernomyrdin 'Temporarily' Transfers Supreme Soviet Assets

LD2309111093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0951 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 23 September—All the assets of the Supreme Soviet are temporarily being transferred to the government until the new assembly is formed, stated Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin here today. Opening the session of the presidium of the country's government, he noted that in the situation that has developed in the wake of the president's decree "On Stage-by-stage Reform in the Russian Federation" all the burden of organizational and economic work is being transferred to the government.

Viktor Chernomyrdin has ordered ministries and departments to set up a commission to transfer the assets of the Supreme Soviet to the government.

A special service organizing job placements for the deputies will be set up at the Labor Ministry.

The head of government has instructed First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko to draw up an appeal to the deputies who are leaving their regions today in order to take part in the congress. He stressed that "the convening of the congress is illegal, we are simply being drawn into a war." "We should be going to new elections and not to a congress," he stated.

On Chernomyrdin's initiative a decision was taken to set up permanent headquarters attached to the government, which is to exercise the control over implementation of the presidential decree in regards to the part that concerns the government. It will be headed by the First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets. Operational meetings of this organ will be held everyday at 0900 and 2100.

Kostikov Reports on Actions of Yeltsin, Supreme Soviet

Opens Press Center

LD2209123093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1058 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Tamara Ivanova, Anna Melnikova, and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep—Russian Federation President Yeltsin arrived at the Kremlin today at 0830 [0430 GMT] and is now working on an assessment of the political situation in the country, his press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov reported.

Speaking at the opening of the presidential-government press center, he said that Boris Yeltsin met Prime Minister Chernomyrdin this morning and heard reports from the "power" ministers (foreign, security, defence and internal affairs.) Not only the ministers themselves, but also the staff of these ministries support the president's actions, Kostikov noted. In his words, the president's appeal for [people] to remain calm and continue work has been accepted by the population, which realizes that the constitutional crisis must be overcome.

An analysis of telegrams from the regions arriving at the president's administration shows that no strike actions are taking place. Yeltsin is completely confident of the army's support and [Russian Federation] Minister of Defence Grachev has made a clear statement about this. The cossacks also fully support the president's course.

Speaking about Aleksandr Rutskoy, the press secretary noted that he "has designated himself president, but he has no levers of power or possibilities of influencing the situation. Serious politicians can only regard this with

irony." The press secretary did not rule out the possibility of the president appealing to the Procuracy, which would determine a restraining measure for Rutskoy.

As for the Supreme Soviet, it does not exist, Kostikov said. It is another matter how long deputies wish to function in a political vacuum. However, no one has any intention of "smoking" them out of the White House by force. He added that the main aim of the president's actions was to lead the country to elections in order to form a new body of deputies. Quite serious disciplinary and criminal proceedings will be applied to those who refuse to implement the president's decree.

Kostikov described the Constitutional Court ruling on Yeltsin's decree as "lamentable." "The Constitutional Court has adopted an unnecessarily one-sided stance, without taking into account the fact that the Constitution contains many contradictory articles, which had been mangled by the Supreme Soviet and the Congress [of People's Deputies]. The president has not been in contact with [Constitutional] Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin," Kostikov said.

He denied rumors spread from the White House about the presence in Moscow of the Dzerzhinskiy division. The press secretary noted: "This division remains at its permanent base in Balashikha [north of Moscow]. Naturally, vital facilities, including radio, television, and banks, have been placed under guard in order to avert extremist actions."

Speaking about the purpose of creating the presidential-government press center, Kostikov noted that there was "complete political and moral solidarity" between the president and the government. "Their actions are being broadly coordinated." Kostikov revealed that the president's and the government's representatives were leaving for the regions today in order to explain the current situation to the population. "It is important that local soviets should realize that the situation is dramatic and that they should make a definitive decision based on the demonstration of people's will," Kostikov said.

The press secretary explained that a time lag between parliamentary and presidential elections was necessary to ensure the continuity of power. In his view, the president should continue in office until the Federal Assembly finds its feet.

He reaffirmed that the meeting of CIS heads of state and heads of governments would be held in Moscow on 23-24 September, as originally planned. "This will be an important factor in stabilizing the situation," Kostikov emphasized.

Condemns Changes to Criminal Code

LD2209172093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1420 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep—Acting in deepening political isolation and sensing their political defeat, former deputies of the former Supreme Soviet are trying to scare the population and the political figures who support the president, Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, said today.

Thus, the urgently adopted "law" "On Amendments and Addenda to the Russian Federation Criminal Code" stipulates the toughest measures against political opponents, up to the death penalty.

Such "law-making" exposes the real face of the Supreme Soviet's leadership, and fully unmasks the leaders of the irreconcilable opposition. In fact, they have confirmed their readiness to unleash political terror in Russia, Vyacheslav Kostikov pointed out. One could imagine the bloody consequences that would follow if a small group of personages, who are isolated from the people and are trying to depose a president legally elected by the people, were to gain power.

Russia, which experienced the most appalling terror in the history of mankind under Communist rule, cannot sympathize with people who are openly speaking about possible mass repressions, Vyacheslav Kostikov stressed.

Refutes 'Distortion of Facts'

LD2309091693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0907 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 23 TASS—"Opponents of the Russian president, who found themselves in political isolation and got entrenched in the premises of the Russian Parliament, began to show a dangerous inclination to the distortion of facts and, which is even worse, to open armed provocations," says a statement of Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the Russian president, circulated here today.

"The Wednesday attempt of an armed assault group, led by Albert Makashov, to capture the communication centre of the State Committee for Emergency Situations, is a crime calling for the immediate evaluation and action to be taken by the prosecutor-general's office. This is another proof that the leaders of parliament, who hold forth about their allegiance to the law, are actually ready to take any illegal, even bandit actions for furthering their aims," the statement pointed out.

Statements of Major General Aleksandr Rutskoy, to the effect that regional leaders and part of the military are supporting him, look absolutely false. It should be pointed out that Rutskoy has no communication with the regions and gets his information only in the corridors of the "White House", which is becoming more and more empty. As for the military, yesterday's attempts of representatives of Rutskoy and Khasbulatov to establish contacts with students of military schools were a complete failure. All the military schools announced their full support for president yeltsin and refused to have anything to do with emissaries of the parliament.

According to the information of the president's press service, [Civic Union Chairman Vasiliy] Lipitskiy's statement about the support, rendered to Rutskoy by the

People's Party of Free Russia, was also a falsehood. The party has dissociated itself from that statement, reflecting his personal opinion, and is going to come up with a statement today about its actual stand.

Filatov Assails Rutskoy's Actions; Defends Yeltsin

LD2209185093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] [Announcer] Once again Mayak Panorama is reporting on today's events. After Yegor Gaydar, Sergey Filatov, the head of the President's Administration, has come to the House of the Russian Press to meet journalists. The news conference started at 1800. Our commentator Olga Vasilenko was following this event. She is in the studio at the moment. Well, what did you hear today from Filatov?

[Vasilenko] You know, Sergey Aleksandrovich Filatov once again justified the steps taken by the president, and once again underlined that these steps are peaceful, without any sanctions and prosecutions etc. Answering journalists questions regarding the regions that do not agree with the president's decree, Filatov spoke about the sharp situation in Novosibirsk, Amur, Bryansk, and Lipetsk Oblasts, but at the same time, Sergey Aleksandrovich said that it is possible that they did not receive all the information there, and it is necessary to explain the whole situation to local soviet deputies. Employees of the president's service and the government, as well as some deputies, have already left for these regions in order to explain it. Then the following question was asked. Let us listen to this together, I mean, the question and the answer.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] At the present time we have a situation where there are two presidents in our country. The second president has already taken the oath and is issuing orders. He is dismissing people from their posts and is appointing new people. What is Boris Nikolayevich planning to do?

[Filatov] Unfortunately, so to speak, this process is one-sided not only from the Supreme Soviet's stand, but unfortunately this process is one-sided from the Constitutional Court's stand, too. Practically you know, the vice president has broken the constitution and all legal procedures. This is exactly a breach of Article No. 121.3 of the Constitution, as far as I remember. He took over the president's power. He should be impeached for this action. But I wonder w[illegible] Constitutional Court is not having sessions at nights, days, or evenings in order to consider this, and is not discussing this question. We only have one president, the president who was elected by the people, the president who received the confidence of the people this year, the president who is taking such difficult steps in order to fulfill the will of people. That is why I cannot say that we now have two presidents.

The appearance of this president, as you call him, on the arena and his new amendments to the legislation show that terror, severe terror for people has started. This is a return to Stalin's era, if not worse. As far as I know, they are already talking about shooting people, about the confiscation of property, about giving people awfully long terms of punishment if an official is fulfilling the will of the president. [end recording]

[Vasilenko] Yes, I can confirm the fear of Sergey Aleksandrovich Filatov. This morning I was in the House of Soviets and I know that the Supreme Soviet has adopted amendments to the criminal legislation, and one of the articles actually provides for the death sentence with the confiscation of property, or without it and with very long terms of punishment.

[Announcer] For which crimes?

[Vasilenko] For not fulfilling.

[Announcer] For not fulfilling what?

[Vasilenko] For changing the constitutional system by using force and for the serious consequences that followed this. Also for not fulfilling, for not submitting to the state bodies, the bodies of Russia. These are the amendments.

[Announcer] This is awful. It may have awful consequences.

[Vasilenko] Yes, I agree. But what can we do? You know there was one very interesting question regarding the fact as to why the president does not agree to the elections of the president and the Supreme Soviet at the same time. This is what Filatov said.

[Begin Filatov recording] I think that the president has made an absolutely correct decision because our state is a great state, our state is a nuclear state, a state which demands a secure situation within the country. If there is some kind of vacuum of power for a period of time it could be dangerous, it could have serious consequences. That is why, thinking about the state, its security, about not having any negative consequences, because of this step the president has made a decision: There will be parliamentary elections first, and then the parliament will decide when there is to be presidential reelections. You see, he does not even give the date. The parliament will decide this, probably at its first session.. Maybe they will decide to reelect the president after a month. But there will be, at least, one power, with the government, and the president will be reelected. [end recording]

[Vasilenko] I would also like to say that Sergey Aleksandrovich Filatov said that beginning from tomorrow they will start to set up the Central Electoral Commission, and they have sent the documents connected with the preparation for elections to the regions. Tomorrow, the meetings with journalists in the House of the Russian Press will continue, our colleagues expressed the wish to meet Kozyrev, Shakhray, and Golushko. But only meetings with Chernomyrdin, members of the President's Council, and members of the Constitutional Court, probably, they mean those members of the Constitutional Court who do not agree with the decision taken by

the Court, as well as with members of the former interregional deputies' group of the former Supreme Soviet have been planned for tomorrow.

[Announcer] We will, of course, report on these news conferences in Mayak Panorama. I would like to remind you that you have been listening to the report on Sergey Filatov's news conference, the head of the administration of the president, made by our commentator Olga Vasilenko.

Notes Personnel Changes

LD2209232093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1906 GMT 22 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Sergey Filatov, President Yeltsin's chief of staff, also addressed journalists today. He noted that, at present, most regions in Russia supported the president. The exceptions were Amur, Novosibirsk, Bryansk, and Lipetsk Oblasts. If they did not comply with the president's decrees, however, Filatov warned that the executive authorities in the localities might be replaced.

Tomorrow, according to Filatov, steps would be taken to form a central electoral commission.

Speaking of personnel changes, Filatov highlighted the following:

[Begin Filatov recording] By decree of the president, Gerashchenko, head of the Central Bank; and Stepankov, procurator general of the Russian Federation, have been reappointed. Barannikov and Dunayev have been dismissed from military service. [end recording]

Meets Pro-Yeltsin Deputies

LD2209230293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin's chief of staff, Sergey Filatov, on Wednesday [22 September] met about 100 people's deputies supporting Yeltsin's policy of economic and political reforms, the president's office said.

The deputies, having expressed approval of Yeltsin's decision to put an end to the dangerous situation of dual power, unanimously decided to appeal to people's deputies in the provinces not to support the intention of Ruslan Khasbulatov and his entourage to convene a Congress of People's Deputies, which, in their opinion, would further aggravate the situation.

In order to ensure making use of the political and law-making experience accumulated in the three years of the existence of the last Supreme Soviet, the deputies instituted a public consultative center called Deputat (Deputy), to exist within the structure of the president's office.

Kozyrev Comments on Recent Events, Foreign Reaction

Foreign Policy Unchanged

LD2209132593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met journalists in Moscow today. Our correspondent Yelena Sandomirskaya reports:

[Begin recording] [Sandomirskaya] The head of Russia's foreign policy department made no official statements; however, he immediately asked journalists to ask questions. During the meeting, Kozyrev said that the international community had received the statement by Russian President Yeltsin with understanding and support. Foreign states saw the Russian president as the only guarantee of democratic changes in Russia and also as a political leader elected by the entire people. As for the continuation of events in Russia, Kozyrev made an optimistic forecast for the future and said that today in our country we have a president, a prime minister, and elections for a new two-chamber parliament appointed for a finite term.

The situation in Russia today, Kozyrev said, is stable and no changes are expected in Russian foreign policy. All the ministries are subordinate to the Russian president. Kozyrev described the activities of the Supreme Soviet of Russia as not serious. [end recording]

Views Rutskoy's Actions

LD2209134493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] "Aleksandr Rutskoy's self-declaration as Russia's president might be viewed as the beginning of an international contest for the posts of Chinese emperor, court and harem," Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told INTERFAX on Wednesday.

To quote Kozyrev, Ruslan Khasbulatov, the chairman of the parliament disbanded by the Russian president, is thus becoming the Grand Vizier.

The Russian Foreign Ministry is working as usual, Director of the Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Grigoriy Karasin told INTERFAX.

He also said that the Foreign Ministry had informed all Russian embassies of the president's decree on stage-by-stage constitutional reform. "This is our routine work," he added.

Russia's partners in democratic states have expressed solidarity with President Yeltsin, the president's political advisor Galina Sidorova informed INTERFAX. She said that "Russia, too, has always supported democratic changes in other countries."

Sidorova noted that the presidential decree had not changed the Russian foreign minister's plans in any way.

"Andrey Kozyrev continues preparations for the 48th session of the UN General Assembly. On Friday he will fly out to New York," she said.

Views Actions as No Surprise

LD2209140893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1216 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 22 September—All the decisive measures taken by the president are aimed at advancing the democratic process in Russia, said Andrey Kozyrev, head of the country's foreign policy department, at a meeting in the Foreign Ministry today.

The only way out of the present critical situation, he said, is to hold elections to the new Supreme Soviet, and this is what President Yeltsin's present efforts are aimed at. According to Andrey Kozyrev, the president's decree was not a surprise either in Russia or abroad: Boris Yeltsin had previously said that he was going to take decisive measures in September.

The question of the situation in Russia had been discussed with the American leadership in Washington, for whom the present developments have not come as a surprise either. All departments and services in Russia support the decree of the president, who is, as the minister underlined, "The only legitimate source of power, and who has been invested with the people's mandate".

Well before the publication of the presidential decree, he said, the Russian Foreign Ministry in particular said that at present the president is the only legitimate source of the power coming from the people. This has been reaffirmed during the April referendum. However, said Andrey Kozyrev, certain forces are now trying to find this "source of power," by manipulating the Constitution, which they use as an "obscenity." All this is being undertaken with one goal in mind—to preserve their power. That is why, the minister believes, the Constitutional Court, "which was silently observing all the mockery of the Constitution, has also lost its legitimacy today." He believes that no additional explanations are needed, either at home or abroad, as to the importance and the timeliness of the president's decree.

Andrey Kozyrev is convinced that Boris Yeltsin will not be defeated in the present confrontation.

Answering journalists' questions, the minister stated that the resignation statement of Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Sergey Glazyev testifies in this particular instance to certain "difficulties and mistakes of the department" both in the professional and in the political sense," which was demonstrated by the notorious cryogenic engines sales deal with India.

As regards the timetable of Boris Yeltsin's upcoming visit to Japan, it has not been defined yet and will be discussed during his visit to New York for the regular session of the UN General Assembly.

Denies Possibility of Civil War

LD2209155193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Head of the Russian Foreign Ministry Andrey Kozyrev has expressed a 99 percent conviction in Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree on stage-by-stage constitutional reform in Russia. At a meeting with a group of journalists on Wednesday [22 September] in Moscow he underlined that he rules out the possibility of a civil war in Russia.

According to the minister, the decree does not provide for utilization of military forces. "There is no talk about this," said Kozyrev. He added that both the Foreign and Defense Ministries would be strictly guided the presidential decree. "Appropriate measures will be implemented against those who resorts to violence. As far as freedom of speech is concerned, nobody has abolished this. Everybody has the right to say anything he likes, even to proclaim himself Russia's president," Said Kozyrev.

In his words, the Constitutional Court has lost its legitimacy as it remained silent when the Supreme Soviet was "mocking" the Constitution.

People's deputies, whose authorities have been terminated by the presidential decree, "introduced changes to the Constitution when they wanted and did not introduce them when they did not want to." "They did everything with only one aim—to preserve their legitimacy," underlined Kozyrev.

He also pointed out that President Boris Yeltsin elected by the people "is the sole source of legitimate power" in Russia who has received popular backing at the April referendum. "All democratic states have rendered their support for us. There was no need in any special explanations," said the minister. He also indicated that Russia's foreign policy would not change.

In response to our INTERFAX correspondent regarding the reaction of Russian embassies to the presidential decree, the minister said that both the foreign minister and Russian embassies are pursuing presidential foreign policy. "The issue concerning consent with the decree has not even been raised," said the minister.

Responding to Japanese journalists whether the presidential decree can lead to the delay of his visit to Japan, Kozyrev answered that the date of his visit had not been determined yet. He reported that he intends to meet with the Japanese foreign Minister at the General Assembly session in New York and to discuss "all details." "After that we shall make an appropriate statement," said Kozyrev.

INTERFAX Diplomatic Panorama dated September 22 is to publish this material in detail.

Says Yeltsin Only 'Legitimate Source of Power'

LD2209215793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Today Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had a meeting with journalists. Yelena Sandomirskaya reports:

[Sandomirskaya] The head of the Russian foreign political department did not make any statements to the gathered journalists, but immediately offered to answer questions. Naturally, everyone was interested in the world community's reaction to the latest events in Russia, and also the Foreign Ministry's actions in the situation that has come about. In particular, Andrey Kozyrev said:

[Begin Kozyrev recording] Even before the decree appeared, we were explaining to our foreign partners in every detail the very simple truth that in Russia there is only one really legitimate source of power—people-based power—it is President Yeltsin. Others are trying to find a source of power not in the popular vote but in the Constitution, which they use as they see fit. If they want, they introduce amendments. All these amendments are reduced to preserving their illegitimate power. That is why the Constitutional Court, which is based on this Constitution that has already been corrected hundreds of times and which did not come out against the mockery of the Constitution, has in fact lost its legitimacy.

I must say that all the democratic states have shown a high degree of understanding—everyone understands this simple democratic logic to such an extent that there is no need to prove anything to anyone. [end recording]

To the question on how Russia's foreign policy may change if Boris Yeltsin suffers a defeat, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev responded:

[Begin Kozyrev recording] He will not suffer a defeat. That is why the policy will remain unchanged. If people who are now proclaiming themselves Napoleons suddenly come to power, this would already be a factor indicating the failure that these people could inflict on both domestic and foreign policy. I am under the impression that this is not a political, but a clinical problem. [end recording]

Filatov, Shumeyko, Others View Events

PM2309094593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 2

[Untitled, unattributed feature citing various leading Russian figures]

[Text] **Anatoliy Chubays: The Supreme Soviet Opposed Russian Statehood**

In the opinion of Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays, we have not just a confrontation between the branches of power but a confrontation between the Supreme Soviet and Russian statehood itself. Such a situation, he believes, cannot continue, and every Russian understands this today. "This is what prompted the Russian Federation president's decision, which everyone had long been awaiting," he emphasized.

Forecasting society's possible reaction to the Russian Federation president's appeal, Anatoliy Chubays believes that in the very near future we will see certain political structures manifesting "an extreme attitude with hysterical tendencies." As regards society's reaction to the head of state's decision, it will be calm. In confirmation of his words the vice premier cited conversations he has already had with a number of administration heads in which they confirmed the population's calm reaction. At the same time, Anatoliy Chubays commented, in a certain sense people even greeted that appeal with a sigh of relief.

Sergey Filatov: I Am Sure That Russia's Citizens Will Support Boris Yeltsin

"People tormented by uncertainty will support the president's edict 'On Stage-by-Stage Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation'"—Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian Federation president's administration, expressed this confidence. Our interlocutor recalled how truly agonizing this year has turned out to be: Many hopes were pinned on it in the sphere of advancing the reforms, but all energies were dissipated on political confrontation. The country has "really approached a civil war phase," Sergey Filatov stated. In his opinion, it has become obvious to all sober-minded people that it is necessary "either to save the country and uphold the reforms or to get involved in a very fierce confrontation."

Under these conditions the president adopted the decision to rely on the people's trust expressed in him in the course of the 25 April referendum and to propose to citizens that they themselves make their choice—whether to support the nationally elected head of state or the forces which are pushing the country back. As Sergey Filatov emphasized, "if the Supreme Soviet had not put the brakes on the transformation processes, the president would have undertaken elections together with parliament."

The head of the president's administration emphasized that under conditions of an economic crisis "we cannot afford to test a range of political methods of overcoming the dyarchy." In his opinion, "history will judge the step taken by the president." At the same time Sergey Filatov voiced the hope that the opposition, if it really thinks about the state's destiny, "will not take rash measures, for they will only exacerbate the situation."

In his opinion, all the "i's" will be dotted by the Federal Assembly, elections to which are scheduled for this December. Until then he urged Russia's citizens to gear up for the Federal Assembly elections, to keep calm, and to continue in the belief that the measures taken by the

president were enforced and are designed for the good of the country and of all citizens of Russia.

Sergey Filatov particularly emphasized that Boris Yeltsin is not involving the power structures in putting into force the edict which he signed.

Yegor Gaydar: This Difficult, Enforced Step Is Capable of Resolving the Problem of the Dyarchy in the Country

It is a difficult but enforced step capable of resolving the problem of the dyarchy in the country—this was the comment, at [our] request, of Yegor Gaydar, first vice premier of the Russian Federation Government, on the Russian Federation president's appeal.

In his opinion, the appeal to the people is a correct step, and only elections can resolve the paralysis of power that exists today.

Yegor Gaydar believes that the personal interests of several hundred people's deputies, who seek only to stay sitting in their seats for another 18 months, must not be turned into a threat to the Russian state. At the same time, the first vice premier remarked, "it was no secret that the political situation which had taken shape and the paralysis of power hardly have a legitimate solution."

Dmitriy Likhachev: The President Acted Correctly

"I believe the president acted correctly by appealing to the people today," Academician Dmitriy Likhachev, honorary citizen of St. Petersburg, said. In his opinion, the further confrontation in the top echelons of power could not have had a different solution, since it had already overstepped all the bounds of decency.

Dmitriy Likhachev expressed the hope that all of Boris Yeltsin's proposals will be supported by the people. The chief thing now is for everyone to maintain a wise calm, to recognize the need for elections to the Federal Assembly, and to ensure that highly professional and highly educated people who enjoy the respect of all of society are elected.

Vladimir Shumeyko: The President's Edict Is Aimed Precisely at Holding New Parliamentary Elections

At the 21 September session of the Russian Federation Government all members of the Russian Council of Ministers supported the Russian Federation president's edict "On Stage-by-Stage Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation." First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko, who, thanks to the Russian Federation president's edict, has resumed his duties following his temporary suspension, told journalists that members of the collegiums of the "power ministries"—internal affairs, security, and defense—also supported the Russian president's edict.

Vladimir Shumeyko emphasized that the president's edict speaks of the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet and the Congress of People's Deputies but not of the local representative organs of power, which continue to exercise their powers. At the same time the edict does not envisage any measures to "take" the Supreme Soviet.

According to the first vice premier, from the moment the president's edict was signed, the directives of Ruslan Khasbulatov and Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy have not been legitimate. The deputies' privileges, including the right of immunity and of free access to the "Ostankino" State Television and Radio Company and free use of transport, are abolished.

The elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly are preliminarily scheduled for 11-12 December. Boris Yeltsin's edict is aimed precisely at holding new parliamentary and presidential elections, Vladimir Shumeyko emphasized. At the same time the timing of the presidential election is decided by the Federal Assembly "the very next day after being elected."

V. Shumeyko particularly emphasized that under these conditions the government must coordinate its work particularly closely with the heads of local administrations and soviets.

Shumeyko reported that a number of technical measures were adopted at the government session, namely an additional guard on television and radio companies, government buildings, military installations, strategic weapons dumps, etc. At the same time he emphasized that no measures were adopted to enhance combat readiness, because the edict does not require additional measures by the armed forces but requires only the preservation of the state as such.

Vladimir Shumeyko emphasized once again that the edict is not aimed at violence and does not propose strong-arm actions. Although the Russian "White House" is "in a state of self-siege," to use his words, nobody has any intention of attacking it.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn: Intuition Suggests to Me That Russia Will Be Reborn

"I am optimistic about Russia's future," Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who is now in France, declared. An interview with him is published today in the Paris newspaper LE FIGARO. According to the writer, such a position is "a question of character." "Even in difficult circumstances I do not let myself become despondent," he continued. "My intuition suggests to me that Russia will be reborn. But this is a feeling not based on rational reasoning." "After decades of communism, which destroyed so many moral values, living roots are still left in my country and are now sprouting," A. Solzhenitsyn said. "They will now have to combat the weeds which have flourished under conditions of chaos."

To the question of whether he trusts Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the writer replied: "He is a sincere and courageous man. He had sufficient courage to be among the first to quit the Communist Party, and he showed

daring at the time of the confrontation with the putschists during the attempted coup in August 1991. Then, however, he made a number of serious mistakes. The first of these was that he did not put an end to the political system, which was disintegrating in 1991."

"Do you believe that Boris Yeltsin should have dissolved parliament at once?" Franz-Olivier Giesbert, the well known French journalist and LE FIGARO commentator interviewing the writer, asked. "Of course," Solzhenitsyn replied. "For it is not, after all, a real parliament formed as the result of free elections. It has its origins in the former regime."

Yevgeniy Sidorov: The Real Way Has at Last Been Shown

The presidential edict has at last shown the real way to create a democratic professional parliament. I believe that those artists and cultural workers to whom Russia's fate is dear will support the Russian president's efforts at constitutional reform in the long-suffering fatherland.

Deputy Premier Gaydar Assesses Events, Economic Policy

Views Election Campaign

LD2209141393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscsat]

[Text] I have just been informed that Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar is now speaking at the Foreign Ministry press center. As you know he heads the Russia's Choice bloc. Gaydar announced the start of the election campaign today.

[Begin Gaydar recording] There might be different attitudes to all this. One can spend many hours wondering whether the time was right, whether the decision should have been taken earlier or later, whether this should have been done right after the referendum or six months after it—there are endless reasons for debates here. However, if one puts aside all this, today's situation is now fundamentally different. It is determined by one thing: whether we choose a civilized, normal path toward elections and try and sort out relations with voting papers, or drag the country into a civil war in order to please a very small group of our fellow countrymen. In my view, this is the essence of the choice—and the choice for any normal and decent individual is quite clear. [end recording]

Comments on Instructions for Ministries

LD2209152193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1440 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep—The main task of the Russian Government is to ensure a normal and peaceful life in the country, stated Yegor Gaydar, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Speaking at a news conference today, he said that the Government has issued relevant instructions to ministries and departments regarding the implementation of the Russian president's decree signed yesterday. Yegor Gaydar noted that the situation in the regions remains stable. The Cabinet of Ministers is keeping a close watch on the stands of heads of administrations, most of whom are carrying out the president's and government's instructions.

The first vice premier singled out three immediate tasks in the work of the Cabinet: To prevent hyperinflation, to restrict elements of state monopoly, and to create an elementary legal basis for the protection of private property.

According to Yegor Gaydar, if the opposition does not manage to provoke disturbances in the next few days, the Supreme Soviet deputies will realize the futility of sitting in the "White House" and "will resume their normal jobs."

Outlines Future Economic Policy

LD2209214693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By correspondent N. Pavlov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Yegor Gaydar held a news conference in the House of the Russian Press today. He focussed mainly on the government's future economic policy, outlining that its priorities are to avoid hyperinflation, implement measures that will free the economy, and create an effective system of legal protection of private property. Gaydar also pointed out that now most local administrations support the president. Regarding the present, he said that the government's main task now is to ensure the normal running of the country's economy. He underlined that:

[Begin Gaydar recording] Any possibility of adopting popular decisions that people will like has expired, because they are beyond the state's financial and other capabilities to put them into practice. It is very difficult to say how much success we will have sustaining this situation [of taking realistic measures], while at the same time not giving our opponents the chance to draw all conceivable political dividend from the decisions we will have to take; only time will tell. But I should say that, unfortunately, in this respect, they have a clear advantage—they are not accountable for anything. [end recording]

Shumeyko Comments on Presidential Power, Parliament

Briefs Media on Developments

PM2209184593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Sep 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Nikolay Bodnaruk report on meeting with First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko: "The Government Is Preventing Events Getting Out of Control"]

[Text] A little over an hour after the president's television address on 21 September Vladimir Shumeyko assembled representatives of certain mass media organs in his office on Old Square.

When I say "certain," I am merely noting that PRAVDA, DEN, and other publications which describe the authorities as occupationist authorities were not invited to sit around the table covered with a green cloth and that in a situation of open confrontation between the opposing sides this can hardly be regarded as unexpected or provocative. On the other hand, no restrictions whatsoever were placed on the dissemination of the information, opinions, doubts, or forecasts expressed during this emergency meeting in which representatives of the president's administration also took part, which gives me the right to describe it without cuts while denying the opposition press the chance to speculate on the topic of the democrats' "secret meeting."

Although it was already known prior to the meeting that General Prosecutor V. Stepankov had stated in his letter to the president that all the charges leveled against Shumeyko by Rutskoy and Prosecutor N. Makarov had been dropped, we were unable to dispense with that now-sacred Russian question: But what about legitimacy? In what capacity is Shumeyko acting? To which the answer was: I have begun discharging the duties of first vice premier, I have just taken part in a session of the government, and the relevant presidential edict is ready and may well already have been signed.

Without setting myself the task of providing a stenographic record of the discussion or citing Shumeyko word for word I will attempt to bring out the main points and answer those questions that the vice premier himself tried to anticipate and those that the journalists asked aloud and which everyone is asking today.

What development of events may be expected? The opposition will not submit, of course, and will attempt to act vigorously. As if foreseeing and insuring itself against such a development of events the congress introduced an amendment to the existing Constitution whereby in the event of the president taking measures to halt the activity of the representative organs of authority his removal from office takes effect automatically while power passes just as automatically to the vice president. Much, if not everything, in this emergency situation will depend on the stance and actions taken by the power ministries. The opposition, including some deputies, will certainly try to form its own government. If figures like former Deputy Internal Affairs Minister Dunayev or General Achalov, known for his support of the State Committee for the State of Emergency, join it, it will be completely futile. (We now know that Shumeyko's forecast has come to pass and that both the generals mentioned by him have joined the "government.")

It would be another matter if some influential figures from the power ministries at, for example, the level of the present deputy ministers, ventured to assume such functions, that would be dangerous and would present an actual prerequisite for dyarchy.

What is happening in the power structures? What is the mood there, what was the first reaction, what can be expected from them? The collegiums of the ministries that we refer to as power ministries, the vice premier said, were apprised of the president's decree before its publication. Collegium sessions were held and everyone had the opportunity to say his piece—the president received full support for his actions. Any attempts to put the country's security at risk will be ruthlessly cut short.

Later a question was put which, I thought, somewhat surprised Shumeyko but which was a far from idle one: "Will the citizens of Russia hear the direct speech of the leaders of the power ministries on television and in the press? Not statements by their anonymous and therefore, in a sense, unaccountable press services but the actual people vested with power whose stance and whose orders will determine the development of events in the country?" Whence followed the assurance that this clearly will be so, at least he will bring this insistent request from the mass media to their notice. In my view, two interlinked questions remain unanswered here for the time being: Either the leaders of the aforementioned structures have still not realized the strength of their own voices or, on the contrary, they are only too well aware of the the responsibility that goes with this and prefer to remain in the background.

No additional measures on the Armed Force, on redeploying troops, or changing operating procedures [rezhim] will be introduced, according to Shumeyko, and no decree is envisaged here. At the same time the protection of arms depots will be reinforced and the Internal Affairs Ministry will step up the protection of government buildings, television, radio, and other important facilities. The territories of military units will be off limits to agitators of any persuasion.

What is the configuration of forces in the government? Vladimir Shumeyko came to the meeting straight from the government session—which was held just a few dozen meters down the corridor. They naturally discussed the president's decree and the current sitiuation. The vice president stated that everyone had the opportunity to have his say at the session. There was not a single voice raised against, according to Shumeyko. The members of the government understand the inevitability of and the need for the measures. The government will

now be working very closely with heads of administration at local level. The president's decree has been distributed, as have comments on it, and constant liaison is being maintained with the territories.

What is to be done about the White House? What actions are to be expected from the government? None whatsoever. No assault or siege—definitely no actions will be taken against the White House. The house on the embankment has effectively been besieging itself since Saturday. As far as we are aware, Shumeyko said, both beds and assault rifles have been brought there—they are sitting and waiting. No doubt for an assault. Let them wait, but there will be no, I repeat, no actions whatsoever on our part.

In what conditions will the mass media operate? In the conditions customary to them and society. No one intends to deny anyone freedom of expression or the right to obtain comprehensive information . But I would like, Shumeyko said, the mass media to refain from fueling hysteria, let alone calls for armed resistance.

The vice premier constantly returned to that idea: The situation must not be overdramatized, we must not get obsessed with dismissing parliament—we must ask ourselves the chief question: Why has all this been done? Not, God forbid, to bring society into direct confrontation—attempted strong-arm actions in a country stuffed with nuclear, chemical, and other weapons, could have catastrophic consequences. The alternative proposed by the president—resolving the crisis by means of democratic elections—is in no way comparable to the tragedy of a pitched battle [silovaya skhvatka].

Elections are the only legitimate and painless means of breaking the vicious circle. Recall, the vice premier said, the classic situation for our society in which every Soviet person ended up: You are not given work without a residence permit, or a residence permit without work. The Russian State and society have now ended up in absolutely the same vicious circle. Everyone says: Elections are needed. Parliament replies: "No!" It is not laid down in the constitution, it is not legitimate. The president has ventured to break this vicious circle. Boris Yeltsin, according to the vice premier, spent a long time studying the situation, had long been preparing for it, and in the end arrived at the only possible decision capable of extricating the country from the very profound crisis, thereby once again assuming colossal responsibility.

What will happen if the opposition brings malcontents out onto the streets? The president's edict does not suspend freedom to demonstrate and march. Nobody will prevent people from expressing their attitude to what is happening—in peaceful forms. But if somebody attempts to use force, the organs of law and order will act according to the law and will instill order.

Yes, but everyone has heard about the gunmen whom various branches of the National Salvation Front have prepared for such situations. It followed from what the vice premier said that this is not news to the security service. The actions of extremist groups are being monitored and will be suppressed in good time.

Everyone remembers what happened in Moscow 1 May. Where is the guarantee that the opposition will not provoke bloodshed, and what can be expected of the government if the situation gets out of control?

Shumeyko again repeated that such a development of events is possible only if the power structures and the leaders of organs of executive power get out of control—which is unlikely. In order to operate effectively on the scale of a state such as Russia, you have to have a considerable number of levers at your disposal—for example, to have available special communications. At the present moment all forms of special communications have been cut off, and the opposition cannot use them. In general, autonomy and independent actions dictated by political passions or any other considerations are inconceivable in the actions of executive structures, for natural laws automatically operate here. The leadership of the former Supreme Soviet will undoubtedly attempt to preserve the possibility of influencing events with the help of "Parliamentary Hour"—on television and radio. All means of television and radio communication are under the jurisdiction of government structures, and there can no longer be any question of any "hours"—until the elections to the Federal Assembly.

The question of how radio or television employees should act if Vice President Rutskoy, for example, demands with his characteristic vigor the live broadcast that is "his due by virtue of his office" was answered as follows: Rutskoy possesses all the rights of a citizen of Russia. In other respects it is necessary to be guided by the president's edict, according to which and in full accordance with the constitution he fulfills only those assignments delegated to him by the president. As is known, there are no such assignments.

In general, as regards the privileges and advantages with which deputies were endowed, following the president's edict they are stripped of them. Maybe, Shumeyko said, the government will preserve a single privilege for them—the right to free travel home from Moscow.

A theme raised by Shumeyko himself provides a very symptomatic reply to the question of how confident the president and his team feel at this dramatic time—a reply which, although indirect, is, in my view, quite convincing: At a time of sharp exacerbation of the situation politicians and economic planners will be found who will attempt to secure some economic advantages for themselves or their regions as payment for loyalty—more simply, money. Foreseeing such attempts, the first vice premier warns in advance of their hopelessness on behalf of the government. "Nothing will come of this. Nothing will change in the credit and financial policy—the president and the government will not allow the country to be thrown into hyperinflation for the sake of instant political advantages." Yes, the government

will work in a special, round-the-clock regime, but this will be the total extent of any changes. All scheduled meetings, appointments, and other government and interstate measures will be conducted as planned. This will include the holding of the meeting of the heads of government and leaders of the CIS states scheduled in the next few days. According to Shumeyko's information, nearby foreign countries are extremely interested in economic and political stability in Russia.

What are the Constitutional Court's possible actions? It is not for nothing that the president's edict employs this wording: The Constitutional Court is to be instructed not to convene sessions before the Russian Federation Federal Assembly begins its work. Yet it is impossible to prohibit. "Maybe," Shumeyko said, "they will meet even tonight. How can they be prohibited from meeting?" But decisions of the Constitutional Court will have no legal consequences. (The reader already knows that this is what happened: The Constitutional Court was sitting at practically the same time as this conversation was taking place). There is hope, as Shumeyko put it, that the court's members will take account of the fact that people's power is the supreme legitimacy. "The representative power has arrogated people's power exclusively to itself and believes that it alone speaks in the people's name. However, the president, elected by the people and supported in the referendum, is the embodiment of people's power."

Is it possible to consider—the question was put—that General Prosecutor V. Stepankov ceased fulfilling his duties at 2000 hours, i.e. the moment the president signed the edict?

From the reply it followed: No. Chernomyrdin had a discussion with Stepankov. The prosecutor is one of the key figures in the state. The opposition will undoubtedly try to put pressure on him and to win him over. Will the Prosecutor's Office Collegium, which is to meet 22 September, take account of the fact that people's power is the supreme principle of legitimacy? The further development of events will show what the president's consultations with the Prosecutor's Office, scheduled for the same day, will lead to.

It is possible to understand from Shumeyko's words that the next three days could decide the country's fate. Either democratic elections and the country's normal, civilized development, or a national catastrophe—which is unlikely: "Socialism has bequeathed us one priceless advantage—the population's 100 percent literacy." And also tremendous experience of life, which will hardly allow the people to go astray again.

Supports Presidential Decree

LD2209175293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1721 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow, September 22 (TASS)—"The Russian Government supports the president's decree 'on a stage-by stage constitutional reform in Russia,' regarding it as a document to be unconditionally fulfilled," said First Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko during a meeting with journalists on Wednesday [22 September].

"The government believes the decree is the only possible way out of the existing political crisis," Shumeyko said.

In his opinion, there is only one reasonable way out of the present political crisis in the country—to comply with the president's decree, Shumeyko said. He declared that normative documents would be issued in the next few days, beginning, perhaps, from the Russian president's decree and the resolution of the government "on the organisation of the system of elections in Russia from top to bottom."

Shumeyko reminded of the fact that at the forthcoming elections to one of the chambers of the federal assembly—the state duma (council), which will consist of 400 deputies, 270 deputies would be elected in accordance with a majority system, while the rest 130 deputies will be elected on the basis of proportional representation. In this connection, Shumeyko called on all political parties and movements to prepare for the forthcoming elections to the new parliament scheduled for December.

Shumeyko said that a telegram, signed by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, was sent to heads of administrations on behalf of the Russian Government. The telegram reads that "a resolution of the Russian Parliament and documents signed by Aleksandr Rutskoy are invalid and are not to be complied with.

Shumeyko did not rule out a possibility of using tougher sanctions against Aleksandr Rutskoy and former people's deputies who ignore the president's decree.

Shumeyko has come out for a resolute reaction to all manifestations of disobedience to the Russian president's decree.

Says Parliament's Utilities Could Be Cut

LD2209203293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1906 GMT 22 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russia's first vice premier, who has returned to his duties, stressed in a conversation with journalists that the way out of the current situation in which the parliament refuses to submit to the presidential decree is to halt the work of that body.

In the opinion of the first vice premier the government is able to achieve this without violence by using primarily technical means. Vladimir Shumeyko said that these measures include cutting off electricity, gas, and water from buildings belonging to organizations which do not support the decree.

Shumeyko also pointed out that among the former people's deputies are many specialists, and there are quite a lot of vacancies in the government.

Chubays Meets Heads of Investment Funds

LD2209220693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1906 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By correspondent A.Vysotskiy; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the State Property Committee, held a working meeting today with the heads of Russia's largest voucher and investment funds. Those present, who represent the interests of ten million stockholders, expressed concern at the political situation which has arisen in the country and which poses a threat to the economic reforms and, in the first place, to the process of privatization.

Commenting on the results of the meeting, Anatoliy Chubays stated:

[Begin Chubays recording] Their position is unambiguous: total support for what the president has done. And their position is unambiguous that privatization should be continued and completed in accordance with the scheme now in operation. And this means that this is the position of those millions of people who have invested their privatization checks in these check-investment funds.

Life is going on normally but meanwhile the deputies are defending themselves by building barricades round the White House but this is somehow separate from normal life which is continuing throughout Russia. [end recording]

Uncertain Position of Central Bank Analyzed

Bank Ignores Parliament's Order

LD2209151793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Russia's Central Bank will not fulfil the Russian parliament's order to stop financing the executive bodies, because the implementation of the budget is within the competence of the finance ministry, a Central Bank representative told Interfax. He also said that the Central Bank is functioning in a calm and business like atmosphere.

Late September 21, parliament demanded that the Central Bank should finance the executive bodies exclusively with the parliament's permission.

A high-ranking representative of the finance ministry refused to comment on the parliament's decision, saying that the ministry is accountable to the Cabinet and "acts within the framework of the executive authority's vertical system."

As the parliament had no time to approve the new law on the budget for the fourth quarter of 1993, the finance ministry and Central Bank cannot conclude an agreement on the extension of a credit to cover the state budget deficit until the end of the year. In view of this, beginning October 1, if the current situation persists, the finance ministry will have to finance budget spending on its own, which means that the budget's spending items will be considerably curtailed.

Last week, Prime Minister Chernomyrdin asked the parliament to allow the Central Bank to extended a 4.666 Tn [trillion] ruble credit for covering the budget deficit in the last quarter of the year. The parliament had no time to endorse this decision.

Confusion Over Control Detailed

LD2209144493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] There is a lot of interest in what position the Russian Central Bank has taken. Boris Yeltsin has resubordinated it to the government. Meanwhile, the dissolved Supreme Soviet has decided to retain control over the bank. We have telephoned to [Russian Central Bank chairman] Viktor Gerashchenko's office and asked whether anything had changed in the work of the Central Bank. Here is what the chairman's personal assistant replied:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified official] There has been no change—as one side adopts one set of decisions, the other side immediately adopts completely opposite decisions. So we do not yet know who we are subordinate to. Ourselves, most likely [laughs]. It's all very confusing. [end recording]

Geraschenko Reappointed Chairman

LD2209135893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1327 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 22 September—In a decree, President Boris Yeltsin of Russia has appointed Viktor Gerashchenko chairman of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation. ITAR-TASS was told this by the press service of the Russian president.

Bank Official Seeks 'Stability'

LD2309015793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Russian President Yeltsin has decreed the appointment of Viktor Gerashchenko as chairman of the Russian Central Bank, said the bank's spokesman.

The appointment is another step in a series of new appointments to high state posts in Russia made by the president in line with his decree of September 21.

The presidential decree of September 21, which puts the Russian Central Bank under the control of the president

and the government for the period before a new two-house parliament is formed, will not negatively affect the bank's activities, the bank's deputy chairman Aleksandr Khandruyev said Wednesday [22 September] in an exclusive interview to INTERFAX.

The decree's text, said Khandruyev, does not change drastically the bank's present status. Earlier the bank was subordinate to parliament and its activities were coordinated by both the parliament and the government.

The decree says the Central Bank is guided by the decrees issued by the president and resolutions taken by the government and is subordinate to the Russian Government.

Khandruyev has said that the Central Bank sees its main task in preserving stability in the Russian banking system and the Russian ruble. We intend to do our best so that the activities by different political forces will not be detrimental to the activities of the Bank and its territorial branches.

Khandruyev said that the bank is unable to stop financing one or another branch of power because financing the expenditure items on the budget are solely within the competence of the Russian Finance Ministry.

Khandruyev also said that the main problem to be faced shortly by the government and the Central Bank is the lack of a budget for the fourth quarter of 1993. Parliament was unable to consider the new draft budget before the end of the year and approve the bank's credit to the government to finance the budget deficit for the last three months of the year. Khandruyev says the problem must be resolved before October, otherwise the government will be unable to finance the budget in the fourth quarter of 1993.

Foreign Trade Minister Resigns; Replacement Named

Details on Resignation

PM2209192593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Sergey Leskov report: "Minister Glazyev Has Again Tendered His Resignation"]

[Text] The editorial office has learned from informed sources that Sergey Glazyev, Russian minister of foreign economic relations, has offered to resign as a mark of protest against the president's edict. S. Glazyev is thus the only member of the Cabinet of Ministers to express his disagreement with the action taken by the head of state.

A month ago there was a big furor at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations linked with accusations of corruption against its leadership. In that critical situation Minister S. Glazyev resorted to a step that was unprecedented in the practice of our leadership—he announced his resignation. However, his resignation was not accepted, and during the conflict all sections of the press spoke favorably of the action taken by the minister, who had managed to significantly improve the Russian economy's foreign trade indicators and had done much to bring order to his department.

Most state officials and traders connected with import and export operations today concur that Glazyev is precisely the sort of man the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations needs. Two arguments are being highlighted in particular. The first is the undoubted competence of the minister, who became a doctor of economic sciences at the age of 27. The second is his personal honesty and absolute integrity.

During the night of 21-22 September, the minister, who was officially on leave, came into his office to prepare an important note on the state quota system for 1994 and did not engage in any political disputes. The minister made his decision to resign early in the morning. It seems that this decision can partly be put down to the psychological discomfort felt by the 32-year-old academic who has reached the top level of the state hierarchy and has experienced no euphoria on smelling the dominant odors emanating from the political kitchen. Moreover, the decision to resign seems easier the second time around.

Staffers at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations—both those in charge and those responsible for liaising with the press—are refusing to confirm or deny the news of their leader's resignation. However, the information provided by our source leaves no room for doubt about the authenticity of Sergey Glazyev's intentions. This time there is no doubting that his intentions will swiftly be realized.

Davydov Appointed

LD2209135793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1325 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin, as reported to ITAR-TASS by his press service, has issued a decree appointing Oleg Davydov as Russian Federation minister of foreign economic relations.

Davydov Turns Down Post

LD2309030293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0000 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Oleg Davydov, who was appointed Russia minister of foreign economic relations on 22 September by presidential decree, has refused to take up that post. This is reported by the Ekho Moskvy radio station, citing informed sources in that ministry. According to information from the radio station, Davydov, who is first deputy minister, is currently in Poland on a business trip. He sent a fax from there containing a statement of his refusal to take up the new appointment.

Stepankov Reappointed Procurator General

LD2209164893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] News just in—President of Russia Boris Yeltsin has appointed Valentin Stepankov the Russian Federation procurator general.

Commission Readies New Corruption Documents on Rutskoy

LD2309081793 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Radio station Echo of Moscow has quoted well-informed sources as saying that members of Russia's commission against corruption and crime, Andrey Makarov and Aleksey Ilyushenko, are prepared to submit new documents to the Moscow prosecutor's office, confirming the involvement of Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy in corruption.

Both have returned to Moscow from Canada where they continued the investigation under the patronage of the Canadian police. It is believed they have been trying to establish the authenticity of Aleksandr Rutskoy's signature on a bank account, a copy of which has been published by the lawyer Makarov.

Atomic Energy Ministry Says Situation 'Under Control'

LD2209151893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1415 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Anna Bakina and Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep—The situation is under control at Russia's atomic facilities, including the defense enterprises. Any accidents are impossible. The political confrontation between the branches of authority will in no way influence the industry's normal operation, ITAR-TASS correspondents were assured at the Directorate of Public Relations and Information of the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry.

Boris Saltykov, minister of science and technical policy, is not concerned about the working pace of its industry, either. In his conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent today, however, he said that in a number of the country's regions, scientists will perhaps support the opposition. In these conditions, Boris Saltykov believes, Boris Yeltsin "should rally the 'power' ministers around himself," especially as "the state figures described as Aleksandr Rutskoy's supporters do not have sufficient authority."

State Inspection Head Supports Yeltsin

LD2209141993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1354 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow September 22 TASS—Territorial bodies of the state inspection protecting the freedom of speech and the mass media received orders to strictly observe an article of the mass media law, banning unconstitutional calls for the overthrow of power, State Inspection Head Yuriy Luchinskiy told journalists here on Wednesday [22 September].

"Guided by this instruction, our bodies will regard publications or speeches containing calls for the removal of the president or the Russian Government as a violation of the law with all ensuing consequences down to instituting court hearings on the termination of a mass medium's operations," he stressed.

Luchinskiy explained that the state inspection's competence includes "repressive" functions as well as protective ones.

"Now that the situation of confrontation has passed, the question is not whether to take sides with anybody but whether to subordinate to the present authorities," he noted. Luchinskiy pointed to the need for unequivocal subordination to the Russian president's authority.

Other Domestic Reaction

Rallies Outside White House 'Sad Spectacle'

LD2209225293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1906 GMT 22 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Video shows street rally] Compared to yesterday, there were fewer people on Krasnopresnenskaya Naberezhnaya today. However, there were more barricades, though no longer made from sticks and stones, but rather lumps of iron and concrete. The content of texts uttered in front of the White House square had also changed. Yesterday's communiques contained the appointments of doubles for ministers and a new president; today, the main emphasis of the speeches and songs was on resurrecting the USSR, which had sunk into oblivion. There were also demands for the return of the old prices of everything. Admittedly, there was no mention of reducing pay or pensions.

All in all, those present had simply divided into those who understood no one was about to attack the White House or the people meeting inside it, and those who looked back nostalgically to the times of the October festival, life in communal flats, and life-threatening tourist trips. That is what evidently puzzled and upset General Sterligov, who only yesterday laughed so heartily at the insults that poured onto Yeltsin's government.

On the whole, everything that is taking place outside the Supreme Soviet building is becoming a very sad spectacle.

Ostankino Issues Statement of Support for Yeltsin

LD2209135093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] During a meeting the directors of Ostankino television and radio have expressed their support for the decisive measures aimed at finding a way out of the political impasse. The Ostankino television company—set up by the Russian Government—says the adopted statement, has been and continues to be guided in its work by a resolution on the Ostankino company, and by the decree of the popularly elected president of Russia on guarantees for information stabilization, as well as by decisions of the lawful government of the Russian Federation. The Ostankino directors' union warns all political forces against pulling the television into a destructive confrontation. We will do everything possible, says the statement, to ensure normal, professional work in the interest of the people of Russia and of other CIS countries.

The All-Russian Television and Radio company has issued a similar statement.

Militia Thwarts Attempt To Remove Ostankino Chief

PM2209190593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Aleksandra Lugovskaya report: "V. Lisin's Attempt to Seize Ostankino Ended in Failure"]

[Text] As it has become known, Parliamentary Mass Media Committee Chairman Vladimir Lisin made an attempt to visit Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of the Ostankino Television and Radio Company, allegedly for the purpose of relieving him of his duties.

V. Bragin's absence prevented us from ascertaining details about the incident from him personally. However V. Lazutkin, his first deputy, said that neither he himself nor the members of the television company's board which convened today for a sitting knew anything about the visit. In any case, he explained, nobody from among the leadership has held nor had any intention of holding talks with Lisin: "There are no traces of Lisin's visit in the building."

Nevertheless there were eye-witnesses to these "traces" all the same. Staffers at Ostankino claim that soon after midday the chairman of the Mass Media Committee "entered the building, but not through the main entrance," spent a long time explaining himself at the militia post, "stamped his feet, objecting to the lack of free speech"... But they reminded him that the enterprise operates under strict rules [rezhimnyy]. So if one compares the lack of any kind of information about the visit on the part of the company's leadership with the stormy scene at the entrance, it is obvious that on this occasion "Rome was saved by the geese," that is the militiamen... This whole picture, they say, was vividly captured by the television journalists. After creating a fuss for around 15 minutes, V. Lisin left Ostankino with nothing.

Parties' Reactions to Yeltsin Decree Vary

LD2209223693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Regarding the view of the decree held by our numerous, if small, parties, the picture is sufficiently clear. Those parties that are close in political leaning to Democratic Russia support the decree and regard it as the only way out of the crisis. Konstantin Borovoy, leader of the Economic Freedom Party, calls it a necessary act, but one carried out extremely late. Parties that are regarded as important or more important and that regard themselves as centrist—like the People's Party of Free Russia—condemned the decree. The leader of this party, Vasiliy Lepitskiy said very recently that he does not regard the National Salvation Front as one of his allies, but today, their signatures are on one of the statements. The National Salvation Front and all pro-communist parties are naturally united in their condemnation of the decree and its author.

Most Parties Denounce 'Coup'

MK2309084293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 2

[Indira Dunayeva, Olga Odintsova, Yevgeniy Krasnikov report under the "Parties" rubric: "Party Members Are Not Very Happy With President. Most Parties and Trade Unions Deem President's Actions Unconstitutional"]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin's televised address was a litmus test that divided parties into two categories according to their attitude to the development. As could be presumed, only democratic parties and movements unequivocally supported the president's decision to violate the constitution and dissolve the legislature. Konstantin Borovoy, leader of the Economic Freedom Party [EFP], said to your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that his party was intent on continuing its preparation for elections and judges the president's actions to be entirely correct. The EFP's political council called on all political forces to proceed with constructive work to prepare for elections and to renounce "the struggle in the streets." The Democratic Russia movement's coordinating council, which held its meeting on 22 September, took a similar approach.

Nonetheless, the president's unconstitutional actions have caused disgruntlement even among the democrats. Igor Yakovenko, cochairman of the Russian Federation Republican Party, told your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that as a politician he did not plan to take part in the illegitimate elections called by the president. He reckons that only the "Russia's Choice"

democratic bloc is prepared for an election campaign—both organizationally and financially. The faction of the "United Social Democrats" (part of the Russian Social Democratic Party) also denounced the presidential edict.

To all appearances, the "coup" has for the moment prompted the center and the opposition to join forces. "After all the statements and edicts, Yeltsin can no longer be considered president from a legal point of view," Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the Civic Union's executive committee, said to your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent.

On the evening of 21 September, a staff of Russian public and political organizations was set up at the White House, which adopted a statement flatly denouncing "forces headed by Yeltsin that want to provoke political instability leading to the breakout of civil war." The statement says that from the time Yeltsin dissolved the legislature, his powers expired. Representatives of 20 parties and movements (the Union for Russia's Revival, the Smena-New Policy movement, the Russian Social Democratic Center, and the National Salvation Front [NSF]) signed the document. The NSF adopted the toughest stance on the president's address. The NSF's political council demanded that Russian General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov initiate criminal proceedings against Yeltsin for high treason, and that Russian Security Ministry staffers, customs officials, and border troops "prevent Boris Yeltsin and his clique from fleeing Russia."

Most Russian trade unions also denounced the president's actions. The statement by the Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions's executive committee deems the events of 21 September to be the president's attempt to stage a coup d'etat and calls on "workers' collectives, workers, and employees to voice vigorous protest against the unconstitutional actions, whoever may have taken them, by all means available, including work stoppages." A similar assessment was made by the Moscow Trade Union Federation, the Khakassian Trade Union Federation, the trade union of forestry workers, and also a number of Russia's sectoral and regional trade union associations.

"Presently, there are two paths lying in front of Russia," Yegor Gaydar said at a press conference yesterday. "Either we move forward toward elections, or we plunge the country into all the horrors of civil war." In the deputy prime minister's view, in this critical situation the Russian Government must not allow hyperinflation, but it should continue liberalizing the economy further and working out a legal framework for the protection of private property.

Yegor Gaydar said during the press conference that all the federal authorities expressed support for the president's decision, and if "some people happen to disobey, the government will have enough strength to remove them from power."

To all appearances, it was not a coincidence that the deputy prime minister made this statement at the press conference. Many observers are inclined to think that the stance of the regions will decide the fate of the coup. Given this, it now becomes understandable why representatives of the current authorities paid special attention to the regions and made numerous trips around Russian cities and areas. Nonetheless, Gaydar's statement that the regions allegedly fully support the president appears fairly controversial. At any rate, according to information received yesterday by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, the authorities of more than 40 Russian regions (small councils, soviets, and a number of administration chiefs) did not back the president. At the same time, most of them called for holding early elections as the best possible way out the current crisis.

Civic Union Urges Normal Functioning

LD2209202593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1903 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep—The executive committee of the Civic Union stated at a sitting this evening that there is a need to ensure normal functioning of state institutes and to maintain public order. The statement of the executive committee says: "In the present situation, heads of power and administration bodies in the constituent parts of the Russian Federation could undertake the role of guarantors of the state's integrity and the restoration of stability in society." According to the Civic Union, it would be expedient to hold a meeting of plenipotentiary representatives of the regions as soon as possible, in order to work out a concerted approach to these issues.

"We call upon people's deputies of the Russian Federation to be conscious of their duty and find a democratic and legitimate way out of the crisis—to adopt decisions at the congress that would open the way to simultaneous elections of the president and the parliament, setting the elections for January 1994." "To reject a decision of this kind would be political suicide," the Civic Union said.

Politicians, Trade Unions React to Decree

MK2309094193 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Assessments of Boris Yeltsin's Edict and the Political Situation"]

[Excerpt] **Politicians**

First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar: "This has been a difficult but forced step, capable of resolving the dual power situation. Urgent liberalization of foreign economic activity is needed and a fund to support small enterprises should be set up."

Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko yesterday held a conference with his deputies where it was decided

to fully support presidential rule. "Should it become necessary," the bank's officers stated, "the Central Bank intends to finance the president and the government."

Economic Freedom Party Cochairman Konstantin Borovoy: "The way the situation develops will greatly depend on how the regional authorities behave. The possibility of local armed conflicts remains."

EPI-Center Chairman Grigoriy Yavlinskiy: "The Supreme Soviet is fairly illegitimate in this country. Yeltsin's decision is also illegal. It is necessary to find a vector between these two sides. This vector could be a federalist movement capable of establishing mutual understanding between the center and the regions."

The Economic Freedom Party's political council has supported the president's actions and appealed to Russian citizens to maintain calm and restraint at this responsible moment.

The Free Russia People's Party has defined Yeltsin's actions as a coup attempt.

The Russian People's Union has come out with a statement entitled "Rebuff Russia's Enemies," describing Yeltsin's actions as an anticonstitutional coup d'etat.

The Organizing Committee of the Russian Unity and Accord Party has expressed support for Yeltsin, calling on the sides to reach a compromise.

The trade unions

The Executive Committee of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions considers the president's actions a coup and calls on labor collectives to express their protest by all available means, including strikes.

The Central Council of Air Traffic Controllers Trade Unions Federation has supported the president's decision to dissolve the congress and the Supreme Soviet.

The Russian Independent Miners Trade Union has stated that if the president, the government, and the Supreme Soviet do not fulfill their obligations, the trade union will "support the early election campaign." [passage omitted]

FITUR Condemns Yeltsin's Actions

LD2209174893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] In the statement handed over to INTERFAX, the Executive Committee of the Federation of Russia's Independent Trade Unions (F.R.I.T.U.) [FITUR] urges "to immediately abolish unconstitutional restrictions regarding activity of the legislative power and to hold simultaneous free elections of the president and Supreme Soviet."

The trade union leadership called on working staffs to express protest against "anti-constitutional actions irrespective of their source" by all available means including strike action. According to the trade union leaders, restriction of activity of one of the power branches "opens the way to establishing a private power regime," says the statement.

Aleksiy II Appeals for Calm, Warns of Possible Civil War

LD2209203693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1518 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Shishkin]

[Text] San Francisco, 22 Sep—Aleksiy II, Patriarch of All Russia, who is visiting here to officially open the celebrations marking the 200th anniversary of Orthodox Christianity in America, has made a statement in connection with the latest events in Russia:

"As the spiritual mentor of the Orthodox Church in Russia, I call for peace and calm, and for people not to allow bloodshed and the development of the conflict between organs of power into a civil war.

"We see blood flowing in Yugoslavia. Our people have chosen a democratic path, and it is necessary to continue to proceed along the democratic path. There is a Constitution and laws that must be observed. I urge everyone toward compromise. We stand on the brink of an abyss, beyond which lies civil war."

Poll Shows 70 Percent Back Yeltsin Measures

LD2209210193

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1555 GMT on 22 September broadcasts a "Public Opinion" program by Tamara Maksimova. She says that there are telephones and faxes in the studio to ascertain viewers' opinions on the crisis in power. A number is given to ring. The first question is: Do you support the presidents' actions?

Maksimova says that viewers are invited to answer yes or no or if they have a special answer they can cable it into the studio. The result comes on the screen: Yes 70 percent, no 30 percent.

Seated on camera are people from organizations studying public opinion. Yuriy Aleksandrovich Livada, head of the Russian Center for the Study of Public Opinion, explains in the studio why it is important to study public opinion especially at this time. People are worried and fearful, he says.

Maksimova gives the next question: Do you or your friends feel worried? The answer comes on the screen: Yes, 53 percent, no 47 percent.

The next speaker is a director of a communications enterprise. He talks about Parliament's appeal for strikes. His question is: Will you take part in strikes and

work stoppages, as the Supreme Soviet and trade unions have been asking you. The onscreen answer is Yes 32 percent, no 68 percent.

Another speaker gives his opinion on Yeltsin's decree. It is not a matter for worry, rallies, or strikes, he says. It is a question of deciding in the ballot. Work will go on, the army will protect people. He does not think the strikers will be acting in their own interests.

Another public opinion researcher gives his view of people's fears. The parliament cannot continue working if it has lost people's trust, he concludes.

Various telegrams have come in for and against, mostly in favor of Yeltsin.

Another expert on public opinion, the deputy head of a public opinion institution, talks about the economy. He considers whether the decree will help the economy. He asks viewers this question.

Another question put to the vote is: If your people's deputy stands in the new elections will you vote for him. The onscreen answer is Yes 27 percent, no 73 percent.

A speaker mentions the need for voters to know for whom they vote. Another says that two-thirds of the people do not know their deputy.

Various cables for and against are read aloud.

Experts are meanwhile debating. One says the confrontation of powers must be overcome; we will see how people support Yeltsin. The Supreme Soviet has lost the desire to overcome the confrontation.

A man from the Institute of State and Law suggests the question: Will you take part in the elections to the new parliament? The outcome will determine who the new MP's will be.

The next question is: Will the latest decision of the president help get the country out of the crisis? The onscreen answer is Yes, 71 percent; no, 29 percent.

Maksimova reads some more cables from various towns. The question is raised: Will you take part in the new elections to parliament on a professional basis. The answer is Yes, 82 percent; no, 18 percent.

The head of an entrepreneurs' organization speaks of the diarchy or anarchy as being bad for the economy.

A woman designer, the only woman on the experts' panel, raises a question "on a professional basis": Do you think the president's action was timely? She says the parliament was never a parliament. Now we must speak of a real parliament, she says. A deputy must realize that he cannot occupy too many jobs. He must work hard.

The answer to the aforementioned question— Do you consider the president's decision timely?—will be broadcast in the next part of the program after a break, Maksimova says. The 45-minute segment ends at 1640 GMT.

At 1755 GMT, the program resumes. Maksimova announces the answer to the last question of the previous session: yes, 80 percent; no, 20 percent.

She introduces studio guests: Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays, head of Yeltsin's administration Sergey Filatov, head of the analytical center for socio-economic policy under the Russian president Petr Filippov, and a group of independent experts. She then reads aloud some telegrams from the viewers reflecting widely differing attitudes to the situation.

Petr Filippov says the Supreme Soviet has today adopted a decision that supporting Yeltsin should be punished by death. Sergey Filatov confirms that a decision to this effect was indeed adopted today. He also says that people surrounding the Supreme Soviet building are being issued with firearms on Khasbulatov's instruction.

The next question put to the audience is: Do you approve of the parliament's decision to impose death sentences on those supporting President Yeltsin? While the answers are coming in, Filatov gives the background to the present political confrontation. The answer is: yes, 20 percent; no, 80 percent.

Anatoliy Chubays reads aloud telegrams voicing sharp criticisms of Yeltsin.

The next question, asked by Chubays, is: Whom do you consider your true president—Yeltsin or Rutskoy? While the answers come in, Chubays points out that the government fully supports Yeltsin and that all members of the government are calmly continuing their routine work, whereas the parliament is being hysterical.

Answer to the above question: 79 percent, Yeltsin is the real president; 21 percent, Rutskoy is.

Maksimova says the program has run out of time, but the management of Ostankino has kindly given it an additional 15 minutes, so some more questions can be asked.

Andrey Nechayev, the former Russian minister of economy, asks his question: Would the old parliament disbanded by Yeltsin have been able to resolve the economic difficulties facing the country?

During the wait, Sergey Filatov warns against too much haste: Yeltsin has proposed a peaceful way of resolving the situation and no violent steps should be taken by the population. Chubays assures, in response to a telegram, that privatization will continue come what may and that the security of privatization vouchers is guaranteed.

Answer to the above question: Yes, 15 percent; no, 85 percent.

A telegram says that people are afraid of voicing their opinion in this biased program because Yeltsin's dictatorship is sweeping the country. Maksimova disagrees, invites more responses, and signs off.

Telegrams of Support Received

LD2209200993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1742 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—A total of 660 telegrams were received today concerning the presidential decree. Of these, 84 percent support and approve the measures taken by the president to take Russia out of the constitutional crisis and to halt the drawn-out confrontation between the federal bodies of authority, a report from the Russian president's press service says.

The inhabitants of a majority of the country's regions have expressed their attitude toward the decree, apart from Adygei, the Altay, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Tuva. Muscovites have been the most active—111 telegrams, then St. Petersburg—45, Krasnodar kray—21, Stavropol kray—20, Moscow oblast—18, Sverdlovsk oblast—17, Chelyabinsk and Volgograd oblasts—15 each. Another 36 reactions (the majority of them positive) came from CIS countries.

About 10 telegrams were sent by representatives of Cossacks in the south of Russia. Apart from words of approval they express assurances that "Cossacks will be mobilized in support of public order and stability," the press service report says.

At the same time 13 collective reactions express "protest the president's anticonstitutional actions" (the Union committee of the Kemerovo water-supply and sewage industry). This opinion is shared by the unions of the collectives of "Kamchatrybprom" and "Uralchermet", the Iznoskinskiy rayon committee of the Union of Workers in the Kaluga oblast agro-industrial complex, and others.

As a whole, over the day, the correlation of opinions "for" and "against" on the presidential decree was 5.5:1. Negative reactions predominated in appeals from Amur, Ivanovo, Orlov (the only region from which not a single positive reaction came), and Sakhalinsk oblasts, the report says.

Regional, International Reaction

Russian Regional Reaction to Yeltsin Viewed

IZVESTIYA Roundup

PM2309084393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Roundup of reports prepared by Georgiy Ivanov-Smolenskiy under the general headline: "Regions and Nearby Foreign Countries Favor Speediest Stabilization of Situation in Russia"]

[Text] Since the early morning of 22 September IZVESTIYA and news agency correspondents have been reporting on how Russia and the nearby foreign countries have been reacting to President Boris Yeltsin's edict and events in Moscow. Calm and considered assessments prevail, and many republic and oblast leaders note the enforced nature and objective necessity of the Russian president's resolute step. But there have also been some negative reactions to the situation.

Kazakhstan

A statement made by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan says: "The acute situation which prevails in Russia today causes anxiety to everyone who cares about the fate of its great people. The process of reforms, which ran up against serious contradictions, demanded specific and resolute measures. In this connection we perceive President B. Yeltsin's actions as one way out of the political deadlock. A legal assessment of the decisions made requires careful interpretation.

"However, at present the crux of the matter is to prevent further intensification of the confrontation, which is fraught with the danger of unpredictable consequences..."

Belarus

Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich: "I believe that without resolute actions, the situation in Russia could be worse. So order, discipline, and the security of Russia lie only in resolute actions."

The leader of the Belarusian parliament assessed Boris Yeltsin's edict as a "correct step." "And I wish the Russian people success at this difficult time," Shushkevich stressed. "Whoever is supported by the Russian people in December will remain in power."

Kemerovo

A sitting of the Oblast Inner Soviet has under way in Kemerovo since the morning, IZVESTIYA correspondent Viktor Kostyukovskiy reported. An extraordinary session of the oblast soviet is scheduled for 1600 local time. In the absence of Soviet Chairman A. Tuleyev, who has urgently flown to Moscow.

Having met with leaders of the local mass media and correspondents from central newspapers, Administration Head M. Kislyuk assessed the edict of the president and his address to the people as overstepping legal bounds, noting that the Supreme Soviet has also overstepped these bounds by not only "removing" B. Yeltsin from power, but also swearing in a new "president." Only the people may be the arbiter in this situation, he stressed, and this is in fact what the president proposed in his edict.

Yekaterinburg

As of 22 September, a senior staffer at the Ministry of Security informed IZVESTIYA correspondent

Aleksandr Pashkov, the situation in Yekaterinburg and Sverdlovsk Oblast is normal. Yeltsin's statement came as no surprise to many people—regional public opinion was quite prepared for this. E. Rossel, head of Sverdlovsk Oblast Administration, has held a working meeting which was attended by the chairman of the oblast soviet, the president's representative for Sverdlovsk Oblast, and leaders of the power structures. He called on everyone to work as normal.

Chelyabinsk

The Oblast Soviet Inner Soviet has deemed the president's edict unconstitutional and not subject to implementation on the territory of Chelyabinsk Oblast, ITAR-TASS reports. The Chelyabinsk Oblast Committee for the Protection of the Constitution and Soviet Power has appealed to the local mass media to come out in defense of the constitutional system.

Vladivostok

In a radio address, Maritime Kray Administration Head Ye. Nazdratenko said: Russian President B. Yeltsin has done what he should have done six months ago when the referendum was held. But at that time complacency reigned. As a consequence, through the fault of the center, Maritime Kray has found itself in a difficult situation. The government has virtually separated the kray from Russia. If the political orgy in the country continues, we will adopt a decision to work independently until Moscow sorts out who is more important than whom.

Vologda

Vologda Oblast Administration Head N. Podgornov has described the confrontation between the Supreme Soviet and the president as a fruitless tug-of-war which has now been ended. In Vologda Oblast the only emergency situation is in the harvest, he stated in a radio address.

Vladimir

Members of the Vladimir Oblast Inner Soviet, who held a session this evening, have called President B. Yeltsin's edict "anticonstitutional and aimed at usurping power." They have called on the president to abandon the implementation of his edict.

St. Petersburg

On 22 September Academician D.S. Likhachev relayed the following statement specially for IZVESTIYA: "The war between the branches of power cannot serve as a basis for governing the state, and we citizens cannot stand by and wait for one of the branches of power to win the skirmish. Therefore the president has acted correctly by taking the initiative and setting elections. I am sure that everything will sort itself out in this case. The Lord protects Russia. We must simply carry out our civil duty and our duty as workers without in any circumstances disrupting the normal course of life through strikes, rallies, or demonstrations. The people must be given the right to determine their fate themselves. And references to the Brezhnev Constitution are naive to say the least."

Moldova

Moldovan President M. Snegur has sent a telegram containing words of support to Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin, IZVESTIYA correspondent Svetlana Gamova reports. He told the IZVESTIYA correspondent over the telephone that he takes a positive view of the Russian president's actions; he believes that he has "acted wisely and fairly."

Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy

Kamchatka Oblast Soviet Chairman Petr Premyak has told INTERFAX that he supports President Boris Yeltsin's recent actions.

Blagoveshchensk

Amur Oblast Soviet Chairman Anatoliy Belonogov has assessed President Boris Yeltsin's recent actions as a contravention of the Constitution. He stated that he "fully recognizes the Constitutional Court's stance."

Cheboksary

All is quiet in Cheboksary, IZVESTIYA correspondent Valentin Razboynikov has reported. The Supreme Soviet will evidently meet tomorrow. All the republic's leaders are in the fields—the weather is relatively fine and they believe that the harvesting must be hurried along.

Only 5 of 89 Regions Oppose Yeltsin

LD2309083393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0817 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow September 23 TASS—"Administrations of 64 regions of Russia definitely support Boris Yeltsin," Leonid Smirnyagin, member of the Presidential Council and specialist in regional politics, told ITAR-TASS. He stressed that he meant the executive authorities of the republics, territories and regions. Smirnyagin got this information at the analytical centre in the administration of the president.

Only five out of 89 regions opposed the president's decree. These are Bashkortostan, Kabardin-Balkaria, Mordovia, the Amur and Bryansk regions. Eight regions, including the Kursk, Oryol and Ulyanovsk regions, the republics of Tatarstan and Udmurtia, and the Khanty-Mansi district have not yet made up their mind.

It is noteworthy, Smirnyagin continued, that in August 1991 "13 regions assumed an openly anti-Yeltsin stand, while today only five regions are opposing the president's actions."

Further Regional Roundup

MK2309113193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 3

[Roundup of reports by Natalya Pachegina, Radik Batyrshin, Igor Terekhov, Sergey Kozlov, Aleksandr Tago, Vladimir Skachko, Armen Khanbabyan, Guga Lolishvili, and NEGA news agency: "Who Thinks What About Presidential Edict"]

[Excerpts] **Russia**

Commenting on events underway in Moscow, Tatarstan Prime Minister Mukhammat Sabirov said to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: "We are very sorry, but frankly speaking, we have other business to attend to. Tatarstan needs to finish harvesting grain, potatoes, and beets." When asked whether he will give up his powers as a Russian Federation people's deputy, the Tatarstan prime minister said: "I was elected by my people; I serve them, and edicts by the Russian president do not concern me."

Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev and Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Chairman Farid Mukhametshin do not plan to call short their vacations and will not return to Kazan. "The situation here is calm, and there is no need for the top leaders to return to their work places," the prime minister said.

Bashkortostan Supreme Soviet Chairman Murtaza Rakhimov said that the developments in Moscow were distressing for him. In his view, "the sides should stop the confrontation, sit down at the negotiating table, and resolve all the matters in a constitutional, legitimate manner." In Rakhimov's view, the 21 September events in Moscow are reminiscent of the goings-on of August 1991 in that Russia will benefit neither from the former nor from the latter. He said that on 22 September an emergency Supreme Soviet session will convene in Bashkortostan. As reported by reliable sources, Bashkortostan's deputies are willing to pass a decision denouncing Yeltsin's actions even before the session begins. According to information from the Bashkortostan Supreme Soviet, the republic's leaders could not reach Moscow on 21 September and Russian Federation people's deputies from the republic were not allowed on board planes bound for Moscow. [passage omitted]

Viktor Stepanov, chairman of the Karelian Supreme Soviet, said in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA that actual dual power came about in Russia following the issuance of Yeltsin's edict. There are two presidents: Yeltsin and Rutskoy. According to Stepanov, this is very dangerous for Russia. The chief of the Karelian parliament said: "As a Russian [rossiyanin], a have a great desire to resolve this crisis in a peaceful way. The main thing is to make sure that people will not suffer." In Stepanov's view, Yeltsin's edict is at odds with the Russian Federation Constitution. This is the reason why the Karelian Supreme Soviet adopted a decision whereby the complete Russian Federation Constitution and the Karelian Constitution will be in force in the republic's territory. Stepanov believes that now is the time for simultaneous early elections for both the presidency and the parliament. When asked whether there will be a pause, similar to that held by most former autonomous republics in August 1991, he said that this will not be the case now, because "we feel that we bear great responsibility for Russia's fate—since the Soviet Union broke up following August 1991." Stepanov emphasized that the republics would not allow Russia's breakup and would try to overcome the current critical situation peacefully.

Answering NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's question about the goings-on in Moscow, Viktor Ignatenko, chairman of the Irkutsk Oblast Soviet, said that President Yeltsin's edict was unconstitutional from a legal point of view. He thinks that political consequences of this edict are such that every one will realize the need for holding simultaneous elections for all the federal branches of power. Ignatenko reckons that one more month would have been enough for all the branches of power to grasp this. The Irkutsk Oblast Soviet chairman said that, to all appearances, the 22nd emergency session of the Irkutsk Oblast Soviet would deem Yeltsin's edict to be unconstitutional.

The special resolution of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Udmurdia says: "A situation of actual dual power has emerged, which jeopardizes the country's normal development." The Udmurdian Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Council of Ministers resolved to reaffirm their commitment to the Russian Federation Constitution in accordance with decisions by the 17th session of the Udmurdian Supreme Soviet. Until the session of the Udmurdian Supreme Soviet passes appropriate decisions, all power in the republic, according to the resolution, will be transferred to the Presidiums of the republic's Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers.

The resolution stipulates that the Internal Affairs Ministry, the Security Ministry, the prosecutor's office, and the revenue service should be guided in their work by decisions of the Udmurdian Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Council of Ministers. Under the resolution, all decrees of the Russian Federation authorities should immediately be brought to the attention of the republic's leaders. The presidium also resolved to convene an emergency session of the Udmurdian Supreme Soviet, which begins in two hours. It has transpired from reliable sources that Udmurdian people's deputies decided to back the Udmurdian Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Council of Ministers and to approve their resolution. [passage omitted]

Valeriy Kokov, president of the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic, described president Yeltsin's edict at a press conference at noon on 22 September in Nalchik as an attempt to provoke a dual-power crisis. The Kabardino-Balkarian president stressed that he was firmly convinced of the need for an early election for all structures of both branches of power. Had Yeltsin's edict specified

when an early presidential election is to take place, this would have removed many problems.

As for the possible coexistence of two Russian presidents, two internal affairs ministers, two security ministers, and so forth, and as for compliance with "parliamentary" ministers' orders, the Kabardino-Balkarian president said that he would not heed them. He said he would be guided in his activity by the constitutions of the Russian Federation and Kabardino-Balkaria, and also by the interests of the Kabardino-Balkaria people. With regard to special services, Major General Aleksandr Makarychev, Kabardino-Balkarian security minister, said in a telephone interview with your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent, commenting on mass media reports that General Rutskoy appointed Viktor Barannikov security minister: "I have only one telegram sitting on my table: 'I assume the functions of security minister starting today,' signed by Nikolay Mikhailovich Galushko. Radio and television reports cannot be our guidelines."

Ingush Republic President Ruslan Aushev's press service said that there has so far been no official reaction by the Ingush authorities to the events in the Russian capital. Officials in Nazran observed, however, that the uncertainty in Moscow may affect the situation in the state of emergency area in North Ossetia's Prigorodnyy Rayon and in Ingushetia itself.

According to reports from the information and public relations department of the North Caucasus Military District, by 1600 yesterday the leaders at all levels in the republics, krays, and oblasts of the North Caucasus region held meetings to discuss Russian Federation President Yeltsin's address and subsequent statements and actions by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and Constitutional Court.

The Supreme Soviet Presidium of the Republic of Adygea, which held a meeting on the subject yesterday, passed a statement making clear that the Adygean parliamentarians categorically disagree with the Russian president's stance with regard to the Supreme Soviet and deem the actions of the supreme executive branch to be unlawful. The North Caucasus Military District's information department confirmed that the republic's president, Aslan Dzharimov, shared the Adygean Supreme Soviet members' opinion. An emergency Supreme Soviet session was scheduled for today, although they said in Maykop that the events in Moscow may force the deputies to convene it even earlier. [passage omitted]

Regions Opposing Yeltsin Detailed

LD2209193793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] According to the chairman of the Tyumen Regional Council of People's Deputies Vladimir Ulyanov, leaders of representative power bodies from the Perm, Kurgan, Omsk, and Tomsk provinces evaluate the last decree of President Boris Yeltsin on dissolution of parliament as unconstitutional. He informed the Tyumen deputies about this at the session of the region's lower council on Wednesday. Ulyanov noted that this is the first reaction of the councils' chairmen.

He also said that all the above mentioned provinces had decided to urgently hold a session of lower councils on September 22 and convene sessions to discuss and assess the current situation.

Meanwhile, in an interview with Interfax, the prosecutor of the Tyumen region Erns Valeyev qualified the actions of Russia's executive and legislative power leaders equally non-constitutional. In his opinion, one should look for a compromise.

Moscow Government Backs Yeltsin

LD2209185593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] The Moscow government, having considered the current political situation, has said it gives its backing to the actions taken by the Russian President aimed at overcoming the crisis. In the statement released Wednesday the Moscow government describes the decree by the Russian President as another proposal to the people to express their view, to form new power bodies which the people will entrust with the governing of the country.

In the conditions of the confrontation between the branches of power, further reforms are impossible. There is a real threat to the existence of the Russian Federation, says the document.

The Moscow government thanked Muscovites for preserving calm and discipline.

All organizations, enterprises, and municipal services are working as usual in Moscow Wednesday. The life and safety of the people are fully secured by the Moscow government.

The Moscow government has appealed to all Muscovites to preserve calm and order.

Moscow City Council Sides With Rutskoy

LD2209202993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Following five-hour hearings Wednesday, delegates of the 17th session of the Moscow City Council adopted by a majority vote (159-for, 33-against, with 2 abstentions) the resolution which qualifies the presidential decree on the gradual constitutional reform in the Russian Federation as an attempted state coup.

The document is based on the statement by the Council presidium approved at dawn on September 22 rather than on any of the four drafts of the resolution which were put to the vote, including those placing responsibility for the political crisis in the country with the

Russian Parliament, as well as ones placing equal responsibility on the parliament and the president.

The resolution has a provision which says that all officials of the city administration must act in compliance with the laws and resolutions of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies, the Russian parliament, its presidium and decrees and orders issued by the acting Russian President Aleksandr Rutskoy, as well as resolutions by the Moscow City Council.

The Moscow Prosecutor Gennadiy Ponomaryov addressed the Council session and said that the decree signed by the Russian president was not in line, in his view, with the fundamental law of Russia.

Kaliningrad Forces 'Probably' Support Yeltsin

LD2209121793 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] The administration of Kaliningrad is clearly adhering to the policy of wait and see. The military commanders probably support the President of Russia.

Baltic News Service reported that Yuriy Matochkin, head of the Kaliningrad regional administration, did not say clearly this morning whose orders will be obeyed by the authorities of this region. Speaking on the region's radio. Mr. Matochkin maintained that the administration is prepared to cooperate with all the organs of authorities which continue their work on the territory of the region. At the same time, he stressed that the political struggle which is raging at the center should not spill over to the regions. This is especially important for the Kaliningrad region, bearing in mind its geopolitical location, the leader said.

According to him, the political struggle at the center may aggravate the solution of economic problems in individual regions.

Meanwhile, well informed sources close to the leadership of the Russian Baltic Fleet inform that they are inclined to recognize the policy pursued by President Boris Yeltsin.

In addition, right now Colonel General Boris Gromov, first deputy minister of defense of the Russian Federation, and Kasatonov, first deputy commander of the Russian Navy, are visiting the Kaliningrad region. They are members of the the Russian Defense Ministry commission which is currently inspecting the combat readiness of the Navy.

Krasnodar Soviet, Bashkortostan Anti-Yeltsin

LD2209170393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Summary] In Krasnodar Kray, Aleksandr Zhdanovskiy, chairman of the kray soviet, described Yeltsin's address to the nation as anticonstitutional. The kray soviet leadership called a session of the soviet to express support for the supreme soviet. Nikolay Yegorov, head of Krasnodar Kray administration, expressed support for Yeltsin's actions and said his decree and address to the nation were timely. He deplored the kray soviet's decision.

In Bashkortostan, the republic's supreme soviet and council of ministers held a joint meeting in camera earlier today. They adopted a statement with an appeal to the Russian Supreme Soviet to act within the limits of the existing constitution; Yeltsin's actions were deplored as anticonstitutional. A group of deputies from Bashkortostan left for Moscow this afternoon "heading for the Russian parliament."

Khabarovsk Soviet Condemns Decrees

LD2309082993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] The Inner Soviet of Khabarovsk Kray Soviet of People's Deputies, in whose work the head of administration of the kray and representatives of various parties and economic structures took part, has adopted a decision to consider the the Russian president's decree of 21 September as not being in accordance with the Constitution, and so not valid on the territory of Khabarovsk Kray.

The Rosinform agency reports that the Inner Soviet of Khabarovsk Kray also resolved that all decrees, instructions, and orders by officials and bodies of power not in keeping with the Constitution should not be implemented on the kray's territory. The administration of the kray is instructed to ensure the coordination of actions of military and law enforcement bodies to ensure law and order. The Inner Soviet has appealed to the Supreme Soviet deputies, whose powers, as you know, have been abolished by presidential decree, to immediately convene a Congress of People's Deputies.

Khabarovsk Security Issues Statement

OW2209142993 Khabarovsk Radio Khabarovsk Network in Russian 0830 GMT 22 Sep 93

[From the "Kray News" program]

[Text] The press service of the Khabarovsk Kray department of the Ministry of Security has issued a statement in connection with the edicts of the president of the Russian Federation and the situation that has shaped up in the country: Department staff remain loyal to their constitutional duty, and will take every measure to ensure state security in the region entrusted to them. In the present circumstances, the security department will direct its efforts towards maintaining a calm atmosphere in the kray, preventing extremist action, and preserving the lawful rights and interests of the citizens. The department has not received any directives from the ministry.

Vorkuta Miners Support Yeltsin

LD2209203393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1453 GMT 22 sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

[Text] Vorkuta (Komi Republic) September 22 TASS—The Vorkuta Workers' Committee decided at an emergency session on Wednesday to support the resolute actions of Russian President Yeltsin aimed at "leading the country out of a prolonged political crisis".

The workers' committee has called on all the work collectives of the Pechora coal field to preserve composure and go on living and working in an ordinary way.

According to informed sources in "Vorkutaugol" and "Intaugol" coal-mining concerns, all the collieries and enterprises within the Pechora coal field are working in a normal mode: There are no meetings, no rallies, no any other industrial action whatsoever.

Public order is maintained in Vorkuta and other cities.

Maritime Governor: 'Sort Yourselves Out'

OW2309104793 Vladivostok Radio Vladivostok Network in Russian 0206 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Studio interview with Yevgeniy Ivanovich Nozdratenko, people's deputy of Russia and head of the Maritime Kray administration, by an unidentified reporter; from a "Special Kray Newscast"—live]

[Text] [Reporter] The stormy events in our political life, the events in Moscow, are at the center of attention of people in Maritime Kray. We have invited Yevgeniy Ivanovich Nozdratenko, people's deputy of Russia and head of the Maritime Kray administration, to our studio. Yevgeniy Ivanovich, how would you assess these events?

[Nozdratenko] Good day dear Maritime Kray residents: I would assess the events in two ways: First, as far as dissolution of the Congress of Russian deputies is concerned, I, as a Russian deputy, consider that the congress as a structure of authority lost its topicality long ago and this step could have been taken correctly. As far as the other events occurring in the capital are concerned, I think that the Maritime Kray has many of its own problems. I think that we ought to be preparing for winter. We should be worrying about where we will get wheat so that we will have bread insofar as the delivery of bread from central Russian regions has become more costly for us than the wheat itself.

[Reporter] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, pardon me for interrupting you, but are you preparing to go to Moscow?

[Nozdratenko] No.

[Reporter] You will not be going?

[Nozdratenko] No.

[Reporter] Then I have another question. Tell me, do you have any information about how the power structures of Maritime Kray—our Security Administration, the Internal Affairs Administration, and the Army—plan to act?

[Nozdratenko] Our power structures will abide by standing regulations, and I would not like to see all that vacillation in Moscow undermining the provinces. It all ends very quickly in Moscow while in the provinces the process continues for ages. I am not sure that we clearly know everything that is happening in Moscow, because both sides are releasing absolutely contradictory views. So I think that we should not be holding meetings, manning barricades, or organizing strikes. We should work as before, maintain calm, and live our normal lives.

[Reporter] I know that diametrically opposed instructions from all kinds of authorities are presently lying on your office desk. So whose instructions will you fulfill? Whose orders?

[Nozdratenko] I have just spoken with Rutskoy, I have spoken with the apparatus of Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, and I have also spoken with Chernomyrdin. I told them that Maritime Kray will continue to adopt a position of not meddling in any political squabbling. We have our own problems with oil, coal, and wheat, as I have said. We have other things to worry about so, sort yourselves out in Moscow, establish who is right and who is wrong. Do not rock the whole country. It is all very similar to August of 1991.

[Reporter] So naturally I would like to ask: How do you think the events in Moscow will affect our current events? Has any money been received for our running account, so to speak, which we have been knocking on doors to get? This concerns us just as much.

[Nozdratenko] You know that by logic, what the President has done now he should have done back in April when the referendum was held. Right now it is very late. There is no longer any confidence or belief not to mention normal human trust. And today's telephone calls, the promises of money, all of this is so disgusting and commonplace....

[Reporter, interrupting] In the hope that you will support them?

[Nozdratenko] Yes. Give us your support and we will send you all the money. Well, first of all there is no money nor will there be any and so there is no need to lie about finishing all those affairs. How can we finish them now? Who knows what we have in the country now to finish our affairs? I consider that we need authority, yet there was none. We failed to give the president the necessary support exactly three times. Everybody expected authority from him.

[Reporter] How would you forecast the development of events? Although you oppose the [words indistinct]

nevertheless, what is your opinion as a person and as a citizen, and naturally as the governor?

[Nozdratenko] Well, I think that what is happening today, right before winter, reflects complete and absolute incompetence on the part of those who govern us, absolute incompetence. Because you know not a single madman would initiate these political games with winter on his doorstep. Completely irresponsible people are involved on all sides. The country was indifferent to their squabbles.

[Reporter] I understand. Now let us return to the problem....

[Nozdratenko, interrupting] What I really want to say, in order not to introduce various political things, is that I have spoken to Chernomyrdin and we will get on with those questions which we have chartered. These are financial issues and all the work with coal consumers in Maritime Kray and with coal suppliers along our railroad all the way up to the Urals and Kemerovo.

[Reporter] Naturally you have information on the overall situation in Maritime Kray. What is the situation like? How were all these events in Moscow received in the Kray?

[Nozdratenko] It is absolutely calm. When they started calling me on the telephone—I was awakened at night—and asked me how things were, whether there were meetings and barricades, I said: What are you talking about? It is nighttime here in Maritime Kray and everybody is sleeping peacefully and nobody is concerned with your meetings and barricades. Why don't you settle your affairs while we get on with our everyday lives. We are tired of your political games. You rock and shake up all of Moscow and then the entire country starts to rock. This is quite unnecessary. The people are simply tired of all this.

[Reporter] What do you think, this latest stage in the political game right on the threshold of autumn in such a difficult year, could it lead the whole country to catastrophe?

[Nozdratenko] It is senseless. It seems to me that there can be only one solution. We should simply declare ourselves separate, the entire Far East, particularly since they have already separated us economically by introducing a railway tariff that has simply throttled us. You understand that it is now easier for us to haul grain from Canada and the United States than to purchase it in our own state. They have simply cut us off. We should separate and not play their political games. We should get on with making life here livable. We got such a fill of this freedom in 1990, 1991, and 1987, all those various forms of democracy, that we are simply sick of it all.

[Reporter] So let us return to the problems that are of real concern. Judging from the press and reports which we get at the radio and television center, is it true that the situation in preparing Maritime Kray for the winter is most critical?

[Nozdratenko] The situation is most critical. Besides we have such a lucky choice of leaders in the city. They are engaging in the same politics, touring around the country and engaging in politics when they should be preparing for winter. They fail to show up at meetings of the Staff for Winter Preparations. They say they have their own republic. What republic are they talking about? Naturally we have a critical situation.

In connection with....[pauses] Staffs, planning meetings, and preparations are being held. Yes, it is just like it was in the past, but there is no other mechanism. I think that this is the most logical and effective mechanism. It reflects the fact that we are concerned with the situation, that we have it under control. We are getting coal and preparing our heating systems.

[Reporter] Is there any hope that we will survive the winter in a more or less normal way?

[Nozdratenko] We will survive it better than normal, there is no doubt about this regardless of what it will cost us.

[Reporter] But there is still no money and the power engineering workers are screaming, everybody is clamoring.

[Nozdratenko] Yes, unfortunately what the government promised us has not been carried out, not in a week, two weeks, or a month. Our hopes and trust have not been met. So, with this in view, what must my attitude toward this government be like? What must my attitude be like toward this president and his team?

[Reporter] What will you do in this situation when not a single government promise is fulfilled?.

[Nozdratenko] We have adopted the corresponding decisions. We have reached agreement with krays and oblasts and we have begun receiving coal without a down payment.

[Reporter] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, is there anything else you would like to say in connection with today's events.

[Nozdratenko] All free resources and bank credits have been thrown into the fuel and power sector.

[Reporter] So the people of Maritime Kray can rest assured to some extent that the winter....

[Nozdratenko, interrupting] Yes, unreservedly. But I have an appeal to the people of Maritime Kray, people on both sides, not to fall for any political agitation, provocation, or to join any strikes or meetings. There is a Kray leadership and it should answer to any of the country's leaders and determine who it will work with. Maritime Kray should work, think about tomorrow, and

think about how to live through the winter and we do not need any of those slogans or barricades on all sides.

[Reporter] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, I am compelled to return you to the situation. I introduced you as a people's deputy of Russia. Now after the president's edict, your mandate has been suspended.

[Nozdratenko] [words indistinct]

[Reporter] But the badge is still on the lapel of your jacket.

[Nozdratenko] Well, let it hang there. You know that the president has done what should have been done at least six months ago when the referendum was held, when it was a natural extension of the referendum process. There was a referendum, there were results, and actions should have been taken. But instead there was a state of lethargy, complacency, and conceit. The people have expressed their trust again. But what do we have now?

As usual the winter has arrived unexpectedly. The polar navigation season has been a failure, ships are being destroyed due to polar conditions, and we are now trying to get something in there for winter. And once again the Maritime Kray commanders are saving the day throughout the country's entire Far East. These Far Eastern commanders are only worthy of praise despite the fact that they were berated for being Reds and Bolsheviks who should be sacked.

[Reporter] Well, let us end our interview on this optimistic note.

[Nozdratenko] Naturally we will work and do everything we have been doing every day. Today we had a radio conference throughout the kray on preparations for winter, and we know perfectly well what we are doing. But if this bacchanalia continues in the country we will simply adopt a decision that we will work separately for some time while they sort themselves out in Moscow and decide who is bigger and more important.

[Reporter] Although you do not want to call it a Maritime Republic or something else, it will be an independent economic unit?

[Nozdratenko laughs] Let us call it an economic zone. Let us not attach a status to this, but nevertheless we know what to do in this situation.

[Reporter] Thank you.

[Nozdratenko] My pleasure.

Magadan Soviet Opposes Yeltsin

OW2309125593 Magadan Radio Magadan in Russian 0700 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By unidentified correspondent on the 11th session of the Magadan Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies on 22 September; from the "Oblast News"—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] A meeting of the Small Soviet was held at 0900 hours [2100 GMT] to discuss the political situation in Russia and whether or not to change the agenda of the 11th session of the Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies of the 21st convocation. Vladislav Ivanovich Goncharov, the chairman of the Oblast Soviet, opened the second day of the session with the following statement:

[Goncharov] In general, speakers at the meeting of the Small Soviet noted that the president's decree is unconstitutional and that he has breached the oath. At the Small Soviet it was recommended that the administration, the Internal Affairs Department, and the Magadan department of the Ministry of Security, be asked to observe the law and the constitution, and to coordinate with local representatives all decisions which could affect action by them in Magadan. The main task today, as far as the Small Soviet sees it, is to ensure that nothing is done in the region to excite passions, and to call on the population for calm.

[Correspondent] And so the session began its work at 1000 hours [2200 GMT], as planned. It began with a discussion of the political situation in Russia. The people's deputies expressed their various views. Here are some fragments from addresses made by the following deputies: Anatoliy Pesin, Ludmila Kuzmina, [name indistinct] Lebedinskiy, Valentina Tsvetkova, and Vladimir [name indistinct], formerly a USSR peoples' deputy and now first deputy chairman of the Magadan Oblast Property Fund.

[First deputy] [Words indistinct] which supports the appeal by our soviet chairman to the local branches of the executive and representative powers, and I want to emphasize that this appeal conforms to the president's appeal to the Russian people. He also emphasizes that there is no need for panic, and that the constitution and the laws should be adhered to. Our people (?essentially) understand the situation. In my view, [words indistinct] told the truth. I would like to see him get involved more often in our lives [passage indistinct] those who really live for the interest of the people and those who [passage indistinct]. Whether the president acted constitutionally or not, should, legally speaking, be decided by the Constitutional Court and not a section of the Supreme Soviet.

It seems to me that in adopting a decision—inasmuch as we have already covered the political situation—we should consider an appeal to the president and the Supreme Soviet—which naturally cannot [words indistinct] authority—to hand over their functions to the Federation Council, which would comprise representatives of all the federations, the president, the prime minister, and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet. The purpose would be to find a way out of this situation in which we have two more or less deserving presidents.

[Second deputy] The fact that the president has breached his oath of office is for his own conscience. However, as

deputies we have no right to allow a breach of the constitution. Therefore, I urge us to give a fundamental assessment of the appeal to the people which was published today in the mass media, and to which the people responded. I am not completely convinced that certain extremist elements will not exploit these murky waters. Even in out territory, they probably already know about what has happened, and I am not sure that they do not have weapons stashed away somewhere. You will forgive me for being frank, but I do have this fear.

[Third deputy] Of course, simultaneous election of both branches of power is the most undesirable option, because there will be a lack of continuity. To leave as president, a vice president who has been accused of corruption and about whom no practical decision has been made, will [words indistinct] impeachment, and that will be correct. In general, the whole situation is so chaotic that there is no precedent for it in the political life of any country in the world. We are the only ones who have managed to get into such a mess. So I think that our appeal can contain only one thing: A demand for the re-election of both branches of power and [word indistinct] because the Supreme Soviet made up of the corps of deputies, and our presidential power—must not be discarded, we must not think that the group irresponsibility of the Supreme Soviet is a fact of life. It could lead us to something [word indistinct], which also should not be allowed to happen. Perhaps it is necessary to change the form of government. We do not have time to be gradual, that is why I think that [passage indistinct].

[Fourth deputy] Respected colleagues, I will be brief because there is obviously no sense in rehashing what has happened. Nevertheless, I would like to briefly express my opinion. I think that what has happened should not be underestimated. I think that we are yet to see and experience the whole [word indistinct] consequences. It is obvious that in all probability this is the tight spring of a new conflict which has been released and will now develop according to a scenario already out of control of either branch of power.

How do civil wars begin? They obviously begin with two branches of power. Right here and now, in this hall, we have one deputy saying, let us obey President Rutskoy, and a second deputy saying the only president is Yeltsin. And that is only here, on the edge of Russia. In Moscow passions are far more inflamed. I think that under no circumstances should we try to ignore this issue, but rather take all necessary measures to protect the interests of the electors and inhabitants of the oblast.

[Fifth deputy] This is not an accident but a natural result of the policy conducted by the Russian leadership over the past three years. Disrespect for the law and financial policy, and finally, disrespect and manipulation of the will expressed by people in referendums have inescapably brought us to this harsh struggle between the structures of power and the resulting attempts to find a physical solution to the struggle. I hope that the time to resolve the issue with decrees and various directives of an unconstitutional nature, has passed and that now, the federation's governing body, the Russian Supreme Soviet in Moscow, will adopt suitable measures so that constitutional order, which is regulated by our laws and constitution, is not breached. We need to develop a democratic state run according to the rule-of-law. We do not need upsets, or a hunt for political enemies, but rather a search for agreement within society and within power structures, for the creation and execution of new laws promising benefits to every citizen.

[Correspondent] Today, the eleventh session of the Oblast Soviet of Peoples Deputies adopted a declaration whose text was read by Vyacheslav Ivanovich Kobets, deputy of the Oblast Soviet.

[Kobets] On 21 September, 1993, B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, appealed to the citizens of Russia through the mass media in which he announced the suspension of the plenary powers of people's deputies of the Russian Federation, and of the legislative, managerial, and supervisory functions of the Supreme Soviet and the Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation. Also, [he announced] elections for the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on 11 and 12 December 1993. He stressed that the appropriate directive had already been signed. In connection with this, Magadan Oblast Soviet and the administration of the Magadan Oblast consider it necessary to announce the following: The measures proposed in the appeal, and his decree in the case that it is signed, contradict the Russian Constitution and pose a threat to the unity and existence of the Russian Federation. We support the need for political and economic reforms in Russia, but believe that they can only be implemented within the framework of an evolutionary and constitutional process.

Implementing the right to the legislative initiative, we consider it necessary to convene an emergency session of people's deputies of the Russian Federation to determine the procedure and dates of early presidential and parliamentary elections. The Magadan Oblast Soviet and the administration of Magadan Oblast are concerned at the development of events following the appeal on 21 September 1993, and warn the president and the Supreme Soviet against hasty confrontational steps which might have tragic consequences for Russia.

Reaction From CIS, Baltic, Other States Viewed

Kravchuk Expresses Support

LD2209151693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1401 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Litvinov]

[Text] Kiev, 22 Sep—"I, as always, will support actions by Boris Yeltsin which are aimed at preserving the unity of Russia, stability, democracy and peace, and at affirming equal and good-neighborly relations between

the Russian and Ukrainian peoples," notes a statement by [Ukrainian President] Leonid Kravchuk circulated today by his press service.

"I appreciate the motivation behind Boris Yeltsin's acts and his desire to overcome the constitutional crisis. I hope that Russian citizens will supports the steps taken by their president to facilitate the political and economic reform."

Kravchuk pointed out that the assurance of the Russian Federation president over guarantees of the implementation of rights and freedoms of man is important. "If elections in Russia take place on a democratic basis, this cannot fail to receive a positive acknowledgement, and Russia will benefit from it without doubt," noted the Ukrainian leader.

Ukraine Foreign Minister on Events

LD2209175193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Address by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko at the Supreme Council—live]

[Text] Esteemed people's deputies, esteemed chairman. In connection with a question submitted to the presidium—incidentally I wasn't a witness to this but was informed about it by Vasyl Vasylovych Durdynets—I would like to reply to a question regarding a publication that appeared through the REUTERS network.

Yesterday evening at around 2200 hours, a REUTERS correspondent telephoned me at home. It was surprising because no correspondents have ever telephoned me at home, but they rang me yesterday. I had just arrived at home. They asked me, how do you assess the events that have just happened and are taking place in Russia, and how do you assess the statement that Yeltsin has just made. I should say that I only heard part of the statement, because I did not turn the TV on in time. I only turned it on after it was said that the Supreme Council is suspending its work etc., etc. Then I was informed about what really happened.

I told the REUTERS correspondent that obviously this question is not for me, that he should probably address his question to somebody in the Supreme Council or better still to the presidential structures. It is for such a level to answer. Besides, it is difficult to make an immediate assessment of such an event. Nevertheless he asked the question and wanted me to reply. I said I could not comment, but then I began to explain how I saw the situation. And on the basis of this they are saying that Zlenko supports Yeltsin, etc.

I would like to say the following. It was said that this is a decisive step, obviously not taken democratically, but still the only way given the confrontation between the two branches of power. I further said that the confrontation had reached such a level that there was already no possibility of finding a way out of the situation. I said this action could have negative consequences, but it is in Ukraine's interest that there should be peace and mutual understanding in Russia. We would like Russia... [pauses] After Yeltsin issued his decree we would like events in Russia to move in a peaceful way.

Naturally, from these statements I was said to support Yeltsin, and today when I arrived at the Cabinet of Ministers, my colleagues surrounded me. I honestly thought they were simply playing a joke on me, but I told them what I am telling you now.

After this, then, the correspondent asked me another question: How will this be reflected, for example, in Ukraine and so on. Well, I cannot comment now, I said, and generally I moved away from this issue. I would like to say this too. Everything else reported in the REUTERS item belongs exclusively to the REUTERS correspondent and has no relation to me. What I said then I have just said now, and I repeat today that what was said was said absolutely correctly.

I would like to go on to say that the Foreign Ministry is closely following the development of events in Russia in connection with Yeltsin's decision to carry out stage-by-stage constitutional reform. Understanding that the success of democratization, the further introduction of economic reforms, and internal stabilization depends greatly on national accord, we anticipate the Russian people will make the right choice.

I would like to say here at the Supreme Council we are convinced that at this crucial time the power structures and citizens of Russia will show the utmost wisdom, a well-considered manner, and goodwill and will not allow actions that could lead to destabilization and confrontation. I would like to say I sincerely wish the Russian people peace, accord, and well-being, and we confirm our intention to strengthen our relations on equal terms between our countries and peoples.

I would also like to say that the ministry is currently analyzing reports of the mass media arriving from other countries. If you are interested, I can bring here a whole series of... [sentence incomplete as heard]

Ukrainian Deputy Sees 'Civil War'

AU2209172593 Paris AFP in English 1718 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Kiev, Sept 22 (AFP)—Ukraine observed events in Russia with disquiet Wednesday as its own situation, following the previous day's resignation of prime minister Leonid Kuchma, gave grounds for concern.

Ukrainian deputies, who have practised a policy of obstructionism with regard to the policies of President Leonid Kravchuk and the Kuchma administration, would have everything to fear from a dissolution of parliament such as that introduced by Kravchuk's Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin.

Even without the kind of confrontation currently on view in Moscow, Kuchma's abrupt departure Tuesday, after months of struggling in vain against the parliament's tactics, has left the Ukrainian political scene in disarray.

Kuchma referred to Yeltsin's dissolution of the Russian parliament at a press conference here Wednesday: "I hope our deputies will be reasonable enough to go of their own accord," he commented acerbically.

Kravchuk has supported Yeltsin's "understandable" measures, adding that he hoped the Russian people would support their president.

Meanwhile a leading spokesman for democratic and nationalist deputies, Vyacheslav Chornovil, said parliament was "watching with apprehension what is happening among our neighbours—Russia is on the brink of civil war."

For their session on Wednesday Ukrainian deputies laid on an enhanced security deployment—riot police with helmets, night-sticks and metal shields—to counter a turnout of thousands of demonstrators demanding early elections. Troop-transporters were stationed in the nearby streets.

With the departure of Kuchma, a Russian-speaker on good terms with Moscow, relations between Ukraine and Russia—already tortuous—could well deteriorate.

The vacancy at the head of government has been filled on an interim basis by the appointment of Efim Zviagelski, who joined the government last June.

Moldova 'Cautious' in Assessing Events

AU2209170193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1619 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 22/9/1993—The first official response to Boris Yeltsin's decision was that of President Mircea Snegur who declares in a telegram to Boris Yeltsin he sustains "the steps taken for overcoming the power crisis, very dangerous both for Russia itself and for the republics neighboring your country". "The forces opposing you organized also in our republic a front that rejects the reform, in form of the self-styled Dniester Republic", the telegram reads.

ROMPRES correspondent in Chisinau was told by responsible factors that neither the Government nor the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had yet a defined stand on developments in Moscow. A high official opined that "it is a domestic issue there". Generally, the government and diplomatic quarters are cautious in assessing publicly the event.

Moldova Puts 14th Army on Alert

AU2309114193 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 23 Sep 93

[Nicolae Mircea Nastase report from Chisinau]

[Text] Tiraspol sources that wish to remain anonymous have reported that owing to the stances expressed by most of the former Soviet republics regarding the latest events in Moscow and supporting President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin, among which is the stance adopted by Mr. Mircea Snegur, the president of the Republic of Moldova, General Aleksandr Lebed, the commander of the 14th CIS Army, has ordered the start of operation Morning Dew, which consists of placing on alert the troops stationed in the Dniester Region and of their refusal to participate in the military drills they have been jointly conducting with the troops of the self-styled Dniester Republic and with the Dniester Battalion [militia of the Russian speaking population], while the latter two are continuing those drills.

At the same time, also owing to the latest events in Moscow, border guard units have been strengthened and the number of checkpoints has been doubled along the border separating the so- called Dniester Republic from the Republic of Moldova. Police troops usually patrolling the Tiraspol streets in the company of civilians have also been placed on alert.

The same sources said that the wives of the officers of the peace-keeping forces deployed to the security zone [between the Dniester Republic and Moldova] have left their holiday huts on the banks of the Dniester River and returned to their homes in Tiraspol.

According to local observers, Tiraspol considers that it will be able to gain political and territorial benefits, regardless of who will win the Yeltsin-Rutskoy dispute.

Belarus' 'Left-Wing Parties' Protest

LD2209210293 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] In connection with the latest decree of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the coordination committee of the People's Movement of Belarus held an extraordinary session this morning in Minsk. At the session, leaders of the movement's 18 left-wing parties and public organizations deemed the decree anti-constitutional and adopted a decision on holding a number of protest actions. The first of those actions was held this afternoon. The PKB [Party of Communists of Belarus], the (?RSPS), the Slav association "Belaya Rus" and other organizations which belong to the independent Republic of Belarus, picketed the Russian Embassy in Minsk.

Kazakh Leader Postpones Moscow Visit

LD2209120193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 22 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The staff of the president of Kazakhstan has told our correspondent Andrey Kondrashev that Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to Moscow, planned for today, will be postponed.

This morning the Kazakh president made a statement on behalf of the republican leadership. It says: The process of reform in Russia, coming up against serious contradictions, required that decisive and resolute measures be taken. In this context, we perceive the action by President Boris Yeltsin as being one of the ways to extricate the country from the political impasse.

It is thought that Nazarbayev's visit to Moscow will take place tomorrow.

Kyrgyzstan Abstains From Passing Judgment

LD2209134793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] "Kyrgyzstan is closely following the political developments in Moscow as it is interested in the promotion of the democratic reform in Russia," Kyrgyzstan's State Secretary and Chief of the President's Staff Dzhanysh Rustenbekov informed INTERFAX.

He said that Bishkek had abstained from passing any judgments about the latest political events in Russia, but hoped that a correct way out of the political crisis would be found.

According to INTERFAX sources, Kyrgyzstan's state delegation is to take part in the CIS summit scheduled for September 24.

Competent sources informed INTERFAX that in the afternoon President Akayev is to make a statement on the situation in Russia.

Turkmen President Offers No Comment

LD2209223593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1552 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat, 22 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Turkmenistan's President Saparmurad Niyazov is leaving for Moscow tomorrow to take part in the conference of the CIS heads of state.

The president's press service informed the ITAR-TASS correspondent that his plans have not changed in the last few days. After the Moscow conference he will go to Brussels on an official visit, where he intends to call the attention of the members of the EC to his development concept for the oil and gas industry in his state which is gradually switching over to a market economy. This visit to Belgium is expected to become yet another step in the foreign policy of the Turkmen president who is an active proponent of the principle of establishing bilateral relations with all countries of the east and west, including the CIS countries.

As for any assessments of the current developments in Moscow by the Turkmen leadership, the press service said that "no reaction should be expected since Turkmenistan does not interfere in other countries' affairs—this is the main underlying principle of its foreign policy."

Uzbek Council, Cabinet Issue 'Appeal'

LD2309110793 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0145 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] A joint session of the (?Presidium) of the Supreme Council and Cabinet of Ministers was held yesterday. The session was chaired by President Islam Karimov.

The session was devoted to the worrying events taking place at present in the Russian Federation. The president of our republic talked about these events and comprehensively analyzed them for the audience. Our president having [words indistinct] stressed that events in Russia could be solved through political discussions. At the session, an appeal to the people of Uzbekistan was adopted:

Events taking place in Russia are above all the internal affair of Russia itself. Russia is a great and sovereign state. Its own people must decide on its fate, its future, and its need for [word indistinct]. We believe that the people of Russia, who have come through many historical tests, will wisely find a way out of this test too.

At the present time, among the leading circles and administrative bodies, legislative and executive power in Russia has been disrupted. This leads to hostility and conflict which concern everyone. Events taking place in Russia, the fate of Russia, and generally the situation in Russia do not of course leave everyone unconcerned. The fate of our partner in the former union is closely connected with the fate and future of countries which became independent, including Uzbekistan and the people of Uzbekistan .

If the existing chaos in Russia continues in this grave way, it may lead tomorrow to a complete collapse of the Russian state. [passage indistinct] In our opinion, if this situation continues, it is clear to the public that it will lead to negative conclusions and to a disaster for Russia.

It will be appropriate if we compare the existing situation with the ever-strengthening [word indistinct]. We believe that events which took place in Russia yesterday and today, Yeltsin's statement, and the steps taken by him must be assessed from this point of view.

We view the events in Russia as [words indistinct]. To assess the events from a legal point of view one needs basic information. We are for dealing with this situation by peaceful ways; people should not suffer and no tragedy should be allowed .

The leadership, the Supreme Council Presidium, and members of the Government of Uzbekistan are taking all measures to secure peace in our homeland, [words indistinct] and will not allow any disruption of [words indistinct].

Further Tajik, Kyrgyz Reaction

LD2209204293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2008 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Moscow September 22 TASS—The leadership of Tajikistan is supporting President Boris Yeltsin's course of democratic reforms in Russia, Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, said at a meeting with Russian ambassador to Tajikistan, Mechislav Senkevich, in Dushanbe on Wednesday.

Expressing his concern about the development of the situation in Russia, Imamali Rakhmanov noted that the Tajik leadership is hoping that the constitutional legislation will be observed in the course of the settlement of the power crisis in Russia.

Imamali Rakhmanov confirmed Tajikistan' participation in the Commonwealth summit meeting scheduled for September 24 in Moscow. The latest events in Russia in no way influenced Tajikistan's decision to take part in this extremely important meeting for the fates of the peoples of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Tajik leader pointed out.

The future of the entire Commonwealth depends on the stabilization of the situation in Russia, Kyrgyzstan's Foreign Minister Ednan Karabayev said in Bishkek today. We are very worried about the latest developments in Russia, and we believe that the only way out of the power crisis is a peaceful settlement of the problem, the Kyrgyz foreign minister stressed. [passage omitted]

More on Moldovan, Turkmen, Tajik Support

LD2209224293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 22 sep 93

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur sent a telegram to Boris Yeltsin in which he had given his backing to the measures undertaken to overcome the crisis of authority, rather dangerous for both Russia and the neighboring states. This was said in a review of the official responses to the Russian president's order "On Gradual Constitutional Reform" prepared by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Head of the Tajik parliament, Imamali Rakhmanov, pointed out in a telephone conversation with the Russian ambassador in Dushanbe that under the emerged circumstances the undertaken decision was "the only right one and approves of it." He emphasized that the discord in the branches of power is beneficial for nobody. Tajikistan is interested that a stable power is established in Russia.

According to the Russian ambassador in Ashgabat, President Saparmurad Niyazov also completely supported the Russian president's performance at a meeting due to his coming visit to Moscow. Niyazov pointed out that it was necessary to arrive in Moscow just to display his backing to Yeltsin personally. Niyazov said that he was ready to make an official statement, if necessary.

Armenian Leader Supports Political Solution

NC2209185393 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Regarding his concern about the crisis in Russia, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan expressed the conviction that the measures taken by President Yeltsin will make it possible to find a political way out of the crisis and establish the needed stability that is extremely important for the realization of the democratic processes and economic reforms in Russia and in other CIS countries.

Shevardnadze 'Very Interested'

LD2209203093 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1630 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Sukhumi, 22 Sep (IBERIA)—According to an IBERIA correspondent, this morning the head of the Georgian state, Eduard Shevardnadze, in connection with the Russian president's decree on gradual constitutional reform and its implementation, stated the following:

"President Boris Yeltsin's decree on gradual constitutional reform and its implementation will, undoubtedly, facilitate securing democracy and its development in Russia. Our country, like all other states on the territory of the former Soviet Union, is very interested in it.

"I have already stated on many occasions that the force we are dealing with here, in Sukhumi, Abkhazia, and all of Georgia, is also opposing Yeltsin and democratic Russia. This force is ready to widen the revenging base of Abkhazia considerably, and, therefore, it is important Russia and the whole world realize that here in Abkhazia, we are not just defending only our citizens and Georgia's freedom, territorial integrity, and independence."

Georgian Council Supports Yeltsin

LD2209164193 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1400 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 22 Sep—According to an IBERIA correspondent, Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian parliament, sent a letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, stating:

"To His Excellency Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Boris Nikolayevich, the members of the Georgian parliament have supported and still support you in these hard times, and they are notifying the whole world about their support. [passage indistinct] In this crucial time, it is important to take resolute measures. Your political

line and personality enjoy great authority in Georgia. You are great Russia's meritorious president. I wish you good health and success.

[Signed] Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian parliament.

Georgians Hold Mass Support Rally

LD2209231293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] A mass rally in support of Boris Yeltsin was held in front of the Russian embassy in Tbilisi today. The demonstrators handed in a petition and a number of statements and messages fully approving of his actions and policies to Russian Ambassador to Georgia Vladimir Zemskiy.

As the Russian embassy told INTERFAX, the Congress of Peoples of Georgia, Georgian Women for Peace organization, Union of Theatrical Workers, Russian Orthodox Society, National Democratic Party and a number of other organizations and citizens stepped forward in support of Boris Yeltsin.

Azerbaijan Supports 'Democratic Reforms'

LD2209222493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2034 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Baku September 23 TASS—The events which developed in Moscow and Russia are the internal affair of the sovereign Russian state, acting president of Azerbaijan, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Geydar Aliyev said in an exclusive interview with an AZERTAC correspondent.

However, Aliyev added that Azerbaijan would not like the further destabilisation of the situation in kussia. "We treat with understanding the statement of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and we will always support democratic reforms which ensure the further progress in Russia," the Azerbaijani leader stressed.

Latvian President Supports Yeltsin

LD2209145793 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Passages within quotes in Russian]

[Text] And now our colleague Aivars Tiltins has telephoned us from State President Guntis Ulmanis' temporary residence. We have already reported to you, esteemed listeners, on this call. Now let us allow Aivars to speak. Please, Aivars.

[Tiltins] A news conference held by President Ulmanis on the events in Russia has just ended. The president reported that an hour ago he had a telephone conversation with Boris Yeltsin, and it was very friendly. Yeltsin said that a short while ago he went out into the Moscow streets and spoke with his supporters, and he expressed gratitude to those states that have supported him.

Two documents have been sent to Moscow, one of them has been signed by the presidents of the three Baltic states—Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia—and it supports democratic processes in Russia. The second document was signed by President Ulmanis, and it has the following text. I shall read it in Russian, so as not to make mistakes translating in a hurry.

"Your excellency: In the same way as other leaders of the democratic states, I am deeply concerned with the events that have evolved in the center of the Russian Federation and the course of their development over the last 24 hours.

"I have no intention of intervening in the internal affairs of another state, however, due to your commitment to democratic principles and due to neighborly relations that historically have come about, I hope and am sure that the peoples of the Russian Federation will be able to tackle their urgent problems in a peaceful and democratic way supporting their president, who was the first in the history of Russia lawfully elected by the whole people.

"Yours sincerely, Guntis Ulmanis, president of the Republic of Latvia."

[Studio translates report and continues] It should be added that Yeltsin has also expressed his confidence that there will be no bloodshed in Russia.

Latvian Saeima Refrains From Comment

LD2209191093 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis had a telephone conversation with Russian President Boris Yeltsin this afternoon. An hour later the Latvian head of state informed journalists about it at his residence. Yeltsin told Ulmanis of his readiness to continue the reform process he has begun without bloodshed. The Russian president also said that he has been on the streets of Moscow, where the situation is normal. Yeltsin thanked everyone who has expressed support for his desire to bring order to Russia.

During the conversation, Latvian-Russian relations were also touched on. Both presidents agreed that after the situation has normalized in Russia, it will be necessary to activate the bilateral talks. I got the impression that Yeltsin knows what he is doing and that the power crisis in Russia can be solved in a civilized way, Ulmanis emphasized.

Ulmanis has also spoken with the commanders of the Russian Northwestern Group of Forces, who are convinced that they will not be involved in any provocations or other forms of activity, nor will they obey any orders which would have the army becoming involved in settling relations between politicians.

Two documents have been sent to Moscow. One states the support of the presidents of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia for the democratic processes in Russia. The other document was signed by Latvian President Ulmanis, and it expresses hope that all problems will be settled in a peaceful way.

In this connection the Latvian Foreign Ministry has also published a statement expressing the conviction that this time, too, democratic forces will prevail in Russia.

The Latvian Saeima, for its part, will not issue any official statement concerning events in Russia. A resolution to this effect was adopted at a joint session today by representatives of the Saeima factions and Presidium, with the participation of Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs. The resolution not to officially react to the situation in Russia was explained by the participants in the meeting in terms of the unclear nature of what has happened.

Yeltsin's retention in power means a continuation of the democratic transformations in Russia. However, formally the action of the Russian president in dissolving its Supreme Soviet was not democratic. Thereby the Latvian Saeima, in officially supporting this step by Yeltsin, would have gotten into an ambiguous situation.

[Begin Birkavs recording] I think that Latvia at this moment is following the development of events in Russia with deep concern, and I wish to express my viewpoint concerning the development of events and their possible effect on Latvia. It is quite clear that the development of events in Russia will to a large extent also affect events in Latvia. In what way? The fact that the Russian Army is present here and the fact that in Russia at present there are indeed two leaderships of the power structure means that the Army located here could receive instructions of various kinds and choose which of them to carry out.

In my opinion the situation is quite unmistakable. Yet again it proves that the presence of a foreign country's army in Latvia must be curtailed as quickly as possible. I would like to say that the people of Latvia definitely support those efforts which will guarantee Russia normal democratic development and which will guarantee that Latvia's great neighbor is a country with which one can deal in serious international relations, that all agreements will be observed, and that there will be no surprises. In any case I hope that Russia will overcome this crisis, will carry on until the elections, and as a result our neighbor will be a stable democratic country which will also develop economically.

I would like to say that we are ready for dialogue with Russia. I very much hope that the planned talks, which are due on 28 September, will not be called off, and that there will be no negative consequences for Latvia from events in Russia, or such consequences that could upset the development of neighborly relations in a positive direction—that there will be no such consequences. [end recording]

International Reaction to Russian Events Viewed

Khasbulatov Denounces U.S. 'Interference'

AU2309101193 Paris AFP in English 1002 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, Sept 23 (AFP)—Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov denounced what he described as "interference" by the United States in Russia's current political crisis and demanded that President Boris Yeltsin resign.

Khasbulatov told a news conference there was strong anti-American feeling among lawmakers "due to the pressure and interference of the United States in the internal affairs of Russia."

He said the decision to hold presidential elections could not be made by "the ex-president" but must be taken by the Congress of People's Deputies.

PRAVDA Concern at U.S. Role

PM2309095193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 1

[Yuriy Glukhov report: "What Is B. Clinton So Pleased About?"]

[Text] The U.S. President smiled as he informed news correspondents about the coup d'etat organized by B. Yeltsin. He presented this piece of news to the unsuspecting journalists as something sensational. Is it not strange that for the umpteenth time news from the horse's mouth, so to speak, about what is happening in Moscow comes from Washington? This is what happened at the time of the Belovezhskaya Forest deal. And it is happening now.

Recent events form a chain, and the United States holds the crucial link in that chain.

We have learned, for example, that during his trip to Washington for the signing ceremony of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration on reconciliation, A. Kozyrev informed W. Christopher about the forthcoming coup.

During P. Grachev's visit to the United States, an agreement was reached on establishing joint U.S.-Russian "peacekeeping forces" based on the U.S. 3d Infantry Division and the Russian 27th Motorized Infantry Division. The most surprising thing is that the Russian minister agreed to the possibility of their being used in CIS countries.

In the wake of this, submitting himself to direct Western blackmail, particularly from the IMF, Yeltsin is restoring Ye. Gaydar to the cabinet. The second coming of the instigator of "shock therapy" is taking place at a time when it is already clear to everybody that the so-called reforms program has led to the plundering of the country, and the next Gaydar shock threatens to have a lethal outcome.

Finally, an hour prior to zero hour, the embassies of the United States and a number of other Western countries in Moscow were warned about B. Yeltsin's television speech. As we can see, this warning triggered the instant deployment of the West's official propaganda support for the embryonic dictatorship.

Western analysts are of a different opinion. Their initial assessments indicate that we are faced with a well-prepared action that has been thought out in detail. Outwardly calm and peaceful at the initial stage, this action threatens repression against any defenders of democracy and the Constitution. After all, they will be regarded not even as political opponents, but as criminals.

Civil disobedience, direct clashes, and the breakup of Russia, exactly the same thing that happened to the USSR, the disappearance of a great power—these are the possible consequences of the impending catastrophe. So what is B. Clinton so pleased about?

Mitterrand Wishes Yeltsin Success

LD2209202493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1850 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—A telephone conversation was held this evening between Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and French President Francois Mitterrand. The conversation, ITAR-TASS was told by the Russian head of state's press service, was held at F.Mitterrand's request.

Francois Mitterrand told Boris Yeltsin that after discussing a report on the situation in Russia, the president and Government of France decided to support the position of the president of the Russian Federation. The French president wished Boris Yeltsin courage, wisdom, and success.

Boris Yeltsin said the situation in Russia is calm, the Russians are working normally and are giving their support to the president's actions.

Yeltsin Asks UN Help

LD2209201793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1745 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] The UN, 22 Sep—Boris Yeltsin has sent a letter to Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Joe Sills, the official spokesman of the UN Secretary General, announced today at the headquarters of the community of nations.

"In his letter," J. Sills pointed out, "the Russian leadership voiced the hope that the international community would regard with understanding the necessity of taking measures motivated by a wish to defend the democratic changes and economic reforms."

Denmark Views Elections as Democratic

LD2209200593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1345 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mstislav Shilov]

[Text] Moscow, September 22 (TASS)—The Danish Embassy in Moscow asked ITAR-TASS today to publish a message from the minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark in which he comments on President Yeltsin's televised address to the nation on September 21.

The Danish foreign minister, Mr. Niels Helveg Petersen, made the following statement in Copenhagen:

"For quite some time the political situation in Russia has been locked up by quarrels between President Yeltsin and his reform supporters on the one hand and strong forces in parliament wishing to clip the president's powers on the other hand.

The initiative of the president to dissolve parliament and hold elections must be viewed as an attempt to clarify the political situation in order to give renewed impetus to the vitally needed reforms.

In democratic countries it is a normal procedure to hold elections in deadlock situations.

From the Danish side, we call upon the Russian people and its leaders to find a decision which is in accordance with the democratic rules and which can ensure a stable basis f r a continuation of the reform process and intensified cooperation with the West."

EC Chairman Telephones Kozyrev

LD2209222993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1604 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 22 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, in his capacity of representative of the country presiding over the EC, telephoned Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev today. On behalf of the EC, he again expressed support for Russian President Boris Yeltsin as the single authority in Russia elected by direct voting. The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs' department for information and the press reported that Willy Claes stressed that the EC considers it its duty to give its thorough support to the development of the democratic process in Russia, which has already gained approval in the referendum of 25 April of this year.

Council of Europe Chief Supports Reforms

LD2209214993 Moscow in English 2023 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikita Yermakov]

[Text] Paris September 23 TASS—Secretary General of the Council of Europe Catherine Lalumiere said in

Strasbourg that she supported the reform process in Russia. As regards the joining of Russia in this international organisation, she recalled that the formation of the parliament elected by the universal voting and political pluralism is one of the conditions to join the Council of Europe.

According to the secretary general of the Council of Europe, Russia intends to hold democratic elections. "Russian democrats will understand that it is the unique way to overcome the political crisis and to develop successfully economic and political reforms," Lalumiere said.

Mongolia Concerned Over Events

LD2209220593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1412 GMT 22 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kim Boldokhonov]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 22 Sep—A deepening confrontation between the top echelons of power in the Russian Federation has caused great concern in our country, says a statement by the Mongolian Foreign Relations Ministry.

The Mongolian Government has sympathized with, and consistently supported democratic processes and reforms in Russia, and it confirms its determination to support them in future, says the document. It [the government] is confident that the heads of state and government and political forces in Russia, guided by commonsense and reason, will succeed in settling the situation by civilized methods, in the spirit of mutual understanding and concord, so that democracy and reform can be developed further. No other outcome except this will fully meet the interests of the Russian Federation; moreover, this would serve to strengthen stability in our region and in the whole world, the statement adds.